

Output, demand and investment fall

CBI economic view gloomiest for ten years

By PHILIP BASSETT AND PHILIP WEBSTER

BRITAIN is in "serious" recession with companies in their gloomiest mood for a decade, business leaders said yesterday. They again urged the government to cut interest rates.

The Confederation of British Industry's latest quarterly survey shows sharp falls in jobs, output and orders, both for home and export markets. But the employers did not believe that the recession would be as deep as those of 1974 and 1981.

CBI economists calculate that by the end of the year, output will have fallen by about three percentage points. The survey, carried out between September 26 and October 17, says that confidence, output, demand and investment intentions are all at their lowest since October 1980. About nine thousand jobs are going every month.

David Wigglesworth, chairman of the CBI's economic situation committee, called on the government to reduce interest rates in the near future, and John Sheppard, an economist at the merchant bank SG Warburg, said the

survey might move the Chancellor to cut rates by half a point. But the Treasury said it would not jeopardise its strategy to reduce inflation by any premature movement on interest rates. John Major, who has acknowledged that Britain may have a "technical recession", refused to comment on the CBI survey. The Treasury said, however: "The survey results are the latest piece of mounting evidence that the economy is slowing down, which is a necessary prelude to the reduction in inflation which will now follow."

Labour nevertheless attacked the government's handling of the economy, accusing it of complacency, and predicting a winter of bankruptcies, closures and redundancies.

CBI leaders said that the survey, of 1,255 companies, showed clearly that manufacturing industry was in recession and that other sectors of the economy not specifically included were also being badly affected. Mr Wigglesworth said: "It is important that the government takes careful note and reduces interest rates further as soon as it can." This month's rate reduction had not been enough to prevent the move into recession.

Mr Wigglesworth told a news conference that he believed the recession was "serious", not "severe" as suggested by the British Chambers of Commerce last week. "Manufacturing industry is clearly facing very tough economic and trading conditions. Many firms are now battling down the hatches and preparing to ride out the storm."

"Overall, the deterioration has been worse than expected and it now looks as though the business situation may get worse before it gets better. We believe, however, that there are three major differences between the current situation and the recessions of the mid-1970s and the early 1980s. British management was tougher, leaner and more capable. It was not cutting investment in innovation and training, and the cuts in investment in modern machinery were not likely to be as savage as in the previous slumps.

The CBI also said that the survey showed some evidence that inflation was being

brought under control. The rate of factory gate price rises in the past four months was at its lowest since early 1987.

Ministers agree that industry is better placed to withstand the effects of recession, and feel that the survey underlines the need to reduce the level of pay settlements, particularly now that Britain has joined the European exchange-rate mechanism. Pay and the ERM, including a proposal from the TUC for responsibility in bargaining, will be discussed by the government, employers and unions at the National Economic Development Council today.

Labour, however, laid responsibility for the recession firmly at the government's door. Gordon Brown, the shadow trade and industry secretary, said: "Nowhere else in western Europe are output and orders falling as fast as they are in Britain." The survey, giving the "grimmiest warning" from the CBI for ten years, came on top of a 70 per cent rise in winding-up petitions. He accused the government of neglecting industry for 11 years, adding: "It is now urgent that the complacency that has characterised government economic policy is brought to an end."

Alex Carlile, the Liberal Democrat trade and industry spokesman, also accused the government of complacency while industry grinds to a halt. He added: "The danger now is of a recessionary spiral, with one firm's lower investment plans triggering another firm's bankruptcy."

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Wigglesworth: battling down the hatches

Saddam orders red alert in Kuwait

From NICHOLAS BEESTON IN BAGHDAD

PRESIDENT Saddam Hussein yesterday ordered his generals to be on high alert for the possibility of US military action on Kuwait "in the coming days".

In Washington, members of Congress met President Bush at the White House amid increased fears of an imminent war in the Middle East after the administration stepped up its anti-Iraq rhetoric and President Saddam placed his generals on heightened alert.

In marked contrast to two weeks of largely conciliatory statements from Baghdad, the Iraqi leader warned his armed forces general command that they should prepare themselves for urban combat in Kuwait City.

"The president underlined the need for maximum alert in

the face of treacherous designs of the American enemy and its allies in the coming days and for full readiness to face any possible aggression," the official Iraqi news agency INA said last night.

The meeting was attended by Abdul-Jabbar Shamshari, the defence minister, and President Saddam's recently promoted son-in-law, Hussein Kamal Hassan, the minister of industry and military manufacture, as well as unit commanders stationed in Kuwait.

The meetings discussed part of the preparations required for urban fighting in the Kuwait province's field of operations," INA said.

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Rock of ages as the daddy-ohs dig their roots

By ROBIN YOUNG



Glitter: his success had to wait for a change of name

THEY unveiled a plaque in Soho yesterday to mark the birthplace of British rock and roll. To say the place was really jumping would be gross exaggeration, but it was crowded with middle-aged men with dye in their hair and nostalgia in their eyes.

59 Old Compton Street is now a bistro with not a juke box or pop record in sight, but in the 1950s it was the 2is coffee bar, "a magnet", as the plaque reminded, "to aspiring teenager rockers from all over Britain".

On the 2is' tiny cellar stage Tommy Steele, Adam Faith, Cliff Richard and the Shadows (then known as Harry Webb and the Drifters), Terry Dene, Micky Most, Wally Whyton and the Vipers and Screaming Lord Sutch squirmed, throbbed and sobbed their way to fame. Adam Faith, now a nattily

suited financial consultant and company director, was back yesterday to reminisce with the 2is' founder, Paul Lincoln, about the times Mr Lincoln would hire him to perform at 7s 6d (37p) a night. Screaming Lord Sutch, veteran star of stage, screen and election hustings, brought out his megaphone to announce: "We will not rest until the 2is is a household name. Before the Cavern, before the Marquee, this was where it all began." Then he went inside for a drink. "Double chin and tonic," remarked a wag unkindly.

Wee Willie Harris, now quite portly Willie Harris, who wrote and recorded the song "Rockin' at the 2is", bewailed the fact that he did not have a single photo to show the way he was then: pink-haired and tarian trousered. Newly arrived from Bognor he looked perfectly normal now. Someone thrust a paint brush into the hands of the composer, Lionel Bart.

Mr Bart, it transpired, had been commissioned to paint the murals for the 2is. He was locked in overnight and paid a crate of beer.

The show was stolen, though, by Gary Glitter. Fans swarmed, if five can swarm, to ask his autograph when he dived for his car and made an early exit after roaring a few impromptu verses before the cameras on the pavement. His continuing success was particularly pleasing since, under his original name of Paul Raven, his was one of the few acts at the 2is which did get into the charts.

The plaque is the third in a series sponsored by Harp Lager to mark sites of importance in British rock history. The first was placed on Widnes railway station, where Paul Simon wrote *Homeward Bound* in 1965, and the second is in Walsall town hall, where Slade played their first gig on April 1, 1966.

5 die as Hindus storm mosque

From CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN AYODHYA

HINDU zealots stormed an ancient mosque in the holy city of Ayodhya yesterday, choking in a cloud of police teargas as they tore down railings and outer walls.

The frenzied assault set Hindu-Muslim relations on a path of confrontation, with potentially dire consequences both for India's secularism and for the Hindu tradition of tolerance. A new era of communal politics and strife has begun.

Police opened fire on several occasions around the mosque, killing at least five people. The 16th century building was slightly damaged, making a mockery of efforts by tens of thousands of security forces to protect it.

The state of Uttar Pradesh, with a population of 120 million, was brought to a virtual standstill. Yet 50,000 zealots still managed to get through to Ayodhya, where they swarmed through the streets and fought hand-to-hand battles with police who seemed utterly confused.

Many of the zealots had hidden in Ayodhya for weeks. The official figure of arrests is 100,000, but it is at least 300,000 and perhaps as high as half a million. The prisoners are being held in makeshift jails, mostly in school buildings in appalling conditions.

Every town and community within 100 miles of Ayodhya (population 100,000) was overwhelmed by police and paramilitary forces who set up hundreds of roadblocks and kept everything but bicycles and bullock carts off the roads. There has never been a security operation like it in independent India.

Yet yesterday about 1,000 people, including sadhus (holy men) with brightly painted faces and clutching ceremonial tridents, surged towards the mosque and broke through police. Two dozen people climbed on the roof and some got inside, pursued by police with lathis (bamboo clubs). A

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Thatcher bars further surrender to Europe

By ROBIN OAKLEY, POLITICAL EDITOR

MARGARET Thatcher yesterday condemned the proposals on economic and monetary union agreed by her 11 EC partners in Rome at the weekend as "the back door to a federal Europe". She told MPs in a statement on the talks that Britain had devolved many powers to Europe already. "In my view we have surrendered enough."

Unrepentant about the language she had used in Rome, the prime minister condemned the EMU proposals as measures "passing powers from national parliaments to a central board of bankers". However, MPs regarded as significant her emphasis on Britain's refusal to have an imposed single European currency. They noted that she fell publicly into line with her Chancellor of the Exchequer and foreign secretary by conceding that Britain's own hard ecu plan could lead from a common currency eventually to a single currency by agreement.

Look - it's a ROMAN ECU.

Yesterday's exchanges displayed the divisions on both

sides of the Commons. Neil Kinnock's attack on Mrs Thatcher was almost entirely on her style in Rome and not on the substance. In one of his less effective performances lately, the Labour leader was handicapped by the fact that, as Labour sources admitted, he too would have refused to sign on the dotted line for a single European currency and independent central bank.

With the Labour leadership attempting to establish its pro-European credentials, Mrs Thatcher was able to exploit the interventions of left wingers who rose to air their complaints about the EC.

After Mrs Thatcher had questioned Labour's economic competence sources close to Mr Kinnock said last night that he would not take lessons on economic competence from a prime minister who for so long used the rate of inflation as a reason for not going into the ERM and then was dragged in because she saw it as the only way of tackling inflation.

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Police raid Polly Peck offices

By OUR CITY STAFF

DETECTIVES from the Serious Fraud Office yesterday raided the Mayfair headquarters of Polly Peck International, the fresh fruit to electronics group now run by administrators.

Shortly before 8 am, uniformed officers seconded from the Metropolitan Police arrived at the offices in Berkeley Square, central London, with a search warrant.

Asil Nadir, Polly Peck chairman, said that the raid was symptomatic of a new desperation at the fraud office. In a statement, he said: "Notwithstanding the co-operation that the company and myself have given... the SFO... has chosen to use the Metropolitan Police to enter and search the company's premises in a more spectacular way than the investigations by professional accountants could achieve."

Mr Nadir reiterated that he had committed no criminal act. Nor, he said, had he been involved with any illegal or unauthorised share dealings.

Full report and photograph, page 23
Comment and Nadir statement in full, page 25

Police 'guilty of racism'

An Asian police constable was unlawfully discriminated against on racial grounds when he was refused promotion, with Nottinghamshire police, an industrial tribunal said yesterday.

It ruled that PC Surinder Singh, the first serving officer to allege racism by British police force, and two other Asian officers, were less favourably treated on grounds of race when they tried to transfer to the CID. Page 3

Dan Air hope

Cathay Pacific Airways, the Hong Kong airline, is negotiating with Dan Air to buy the struggling airline's Gatwick engineering base and turn it into one of the world's biggest maintenance centres. Page 23

Imbert better

The condition of Sir Peter Imbert, the Metropolitan Police commissioner who suffered a heart-attack on Monday, was reported to have "marginally" improved yesterday. Page 2

Bailey on show



Serious photographers, says David Bailey, aim for exhibition in galleries, not fashion spreads in magazines. He reveals how he put together his latest exhibition. Page 19

Language threat

A serious shortage of teachers could threaten the introduction of compulsory modern foreign language lessons for all children from 11 to 16, the government was warned yesterday. Page 2

England lose

England's cricketers lost to a strong Western Australia Invitation XI in a 50-over match in Perth. Page 44

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RAISED IN THE HIGHLANDS.



THE FAMOUS GROUSE
FINEST SCOTCH WHISKY

QUALITY IN AN AGE OF CHANGE.

'Dublingate' sets a woman on course for the Irish presidency



Mary Robinson: enjoying a 19-point opinion poll lead

THE main beneficiary of the "Dublingate" controversy involving Brian Lenihan, the deputy leader of Fianna Fail, is Mary Robinson who could become Ireland's first woman president. Mrs Robinson, aged 46, from Ballina, Co Mayo, is a human rights lawyer of distinction and a former member of the Irish Senate with a modern, liberal, middle-class outlook, alien to many voters in rural conservative Ireland.

She is the nominated candidate of the Irish Labour party, but also enjoys the support of their arch rivals, the Marxist Workers' Party and, much to the embarrassment of Fine Gael, the main opposition party, she is attracting almost as many of its voters as its own candidate, Austin Currie. There is also considerable backing for her among the Progressive Demo-

crats, the junior coalition partners in government.

Mrs Robinson, who has three children and is married to a Dublin solicitor, has perhaps wisely chosen not to comment in detail on the Lenihan affair, concentrating instead on promoting her own view of an active working and youthful presidency, benefiting from what she can justifiably claim is her experience and understanding of the lives of ordinary Irish people.

In spite of the electoral risks and the inevitable danger that Fianna Fail will try to misrepresent her, portraying her as a dangerously liberal "red" candidate, Mrs Robinson has placed at the forefront of her campaign her controversial views in favour of legalising homosexuality, which is still proscribed in the Republic, on

As Ireland prepares to elect a new president Edward Gorman looks at the chances of one candidate who has shown she is not afraid of speaking her mind

removing the constitutional ban on abortion and on the need for more liberal laws on contraception. These are all issues which have engaged her as a lawyer and which help to account for her cross-party appeal to the young and to the intellectual and middle-class voters, particularly in Dublin and along the east coast.

Mrs Robinson is also making

the most of her appeal to Irish women. "All of us need to embrace the idea that mothers can be Taoiseach (prime minister), attorney general or, yes, even president," she said in a recent interview. "We must abandon now the outmoded traditions that still dictate that it is somehow inappropriate that a mother should seek paid employment, that there are jobs and roles that women must be excluded from."

Her views on Roman Catholicism on rural Ireland are even more controversial. Although a practising Catholic, she has described the "patriarchal, male-dominated presence of the Catholic church," as probably the worst single oppressive force subjugating women in Ireland today.

Before the Dublingate controversy Mrs Robinson's popular-

ity stood at about 33 per cent, exactly mirroring the dissident vote on recent national referenda on abortion and divorce. In the past week, however, she has opened up a 19 per cent lead over Mr Lenihan, while Mr Currie, whose Northern Ireland background seems to be counting against him, languishes far behind with only three points.

Mrs Robinson, who is a strong European and a member of the International Commission of Jurists, has no doubt that her election would send important signals of a change in attitudes among a large section of Irish society. "To have a woman (as president) and someone who has the kind of reputation in Europe as I have, particularly in the area of human rights, with a more pluralist image of Ireland, would

make an impact internationally - I have no doubt about that," she said.

Some observers see her lead and possible victory as of little real significance and largely the result of the machinations of the Dublingate affair together with the opportunity for people to vote on non-party lines. There are others who would agree with Mrs Robinson, viewing her victory as a milestone on the way to a more equitable society. As one experienced commentator put it: "If she wins then the prospects for changes in divorce and ultimately abortion law look better and, in general, Ireland will look rather more modern than with either Lenihan or Currie."

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Coser Cruise O'Brien, page 12

Business rate to rise 10% despite pleas from industry

By DOUGLAS BROOM, LOCAL GOVERNMENT CORRESPONDENT

MINISTERS have decided to increase business rates by more than 10 per cent from next April in spite of pleas from industry for a rise below inflation to help companies cope with the effects of high interest rates and soaring fuel costs.

Chris Patten, the environment secretary, will make the announcement in the Commons today and give details of how much each local authority will receive in central grant next year. He will also spell out tough new capping criteria that will be used to curb council spending next year. Authorities will not only have to keep within government targets, but they will be capped if they increase spending by more than about 12 per cent.

The new hurdle is expected to put 75 councils at risk of capping, more than three times the number capped this year. Mr Patten will tell councils that they have no option but to cut costs and increase efficiency. His stance will be welcomed by Conservative backbenchers who fear that poll tax figures will soar next year. The environment secretary has already predicted an average of £379 a head, £100 more than the figure for this year.

The decision to increase business rates by a figure close to the present 10.9 per cent rate of inflation means that some companies will face a rise of almost 31 per cent because their bills will be inflated by last year's revaluation of business property. Under transitional arrangements no company will have its rates bill increased by more than 20 per cent, although the ceiling only applies after the inflation increase has taken place.

Michael Portillo, the local government minister, said yesterday that only 7 per cent of businesses would face the 31 per cent rise, while 20 per cent would see their rates bills fall as a result of the transitional arrangements. About 45 per cent of companies would

see their rates bills increased in line with inflation.

Under the Local Government Finance Act the business rate poundage cannot be increased by more than the September Retail Prices Index, 10.9 per cent, but ministers can fix a lower figure. Hopes that next year's rise might be well below inflation were fuelled last week when Mr Portillo said that there would be a surplus of £400 million on business rate income this financial year.

The uniform business rate is collected locally by councils who pay the Treasury, which redistributes the funds. The surplus revenue was caused by growth in the number of new businesses. Mr Portillo has hinted that the surplus will be used to reduce business rate bills, but £400 million is only a fraction of the £10.4 billion annual business rate income and will have little effect on bills.

David Blunkett, Labour's local government spokesman, said the new capping powers would put Mr Patten in control of council spending and "kill off once and for all the idea that poll tax improves accountability". He predicted "horrific" cuts in services and urged the environment secretary called to use the £400 million surplus to ease poll tax rises. He said the only long-term solution was to abolish the poll tax.

The right-wing Freedom Association yesterday paid the £148 community charge bill of Dave Nellist, Labour MP for Coventry South, who has refused to pay because he said the tax was unfair. Gerald Gartup, director of the association, said his organisation had paid Mr Nellist's £148 poll tax bill for his home in Wandsworth, south London, and was writing to him to ask for details of his unpaid debt to Coventry city council.

Mr Nellist said: "It is a testament to the millions involved in the mass campaign against the poll tax that this Thatcherite organisation thinks that this will have any effect."

BBC plans television network for lawyers

By FRANCES GIBB
LEGAL AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

JUDGES, solicitors and barristers will be able to keep abreast of news and views in the law with the launch next year of a television service for the legal profession.

The subscription service is being set up jointly by the BBC and the College of Law, which runs training courses for solicitors. It will allow lawyers to brush up on changes in the law or learn new legal subjects through special television courses.

The service, Legal Network Television, will be one of a range of 50 specialist services to be transmitted during the night on BBC Subscription Ltd, due to be launched next autumn. In spite of the close early this year of a subscription service started in 1988 for doctors, the company plans new services not only for lawyers but for doctors and farmers. There will also be specialist services for ethnic minority groups, in education, and in leisure services, covering sports, music and motoring.

Jennie Allen, spokeswoman for BBC Enterprises, the parent company, said: "We believe that the service for doctors didn't work because of problems getting the decoders to the profession. The problem was one of hardware rather than the overall concept. The aim was to ensure that lawyers could buy the decoders easily in high street shops, she said. There was a demand for a subscription service. "People need to be kept updated on improvements and precedents and this is a very instant way of getting the information across. It can take up to five years to get a legal text book on to the shelves."

Regular broadcasts will be transmitted in scrambled form in the early hours on BBC1 and 2.



Sir Peter: no longer giving as much cause for concern

Police chief slightly improved

By STEWART TENDLER
CRIME CORRESPONDENT

THE condition of Sir Peter Imbert, commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, improved slightly yesterday. Scotland Yard said that his condition was stable and was no longer giving as much cause for concern.

Sir Peter, aged 57 and commissioner for three years, was taken to St Thomas's hospital, central London, on Monday evening with a suspected heart attack after having been horse riding. Yesterday he received messages from the prime minister and David Waddington, the home secretary. Sir Peter spent much of the day with his wife, Lady Iris, his son Simon, aged 31, and his daughters Elaine, 29, and Sally, 24.

He was also visited by Sir John Dellow, the deputy commissioner, who has taken temporary command. Sir John, aged 59, is scheduled to leave the Yard next spring and has recently retired as president of the Association of Chief Police Officers. He would normally stand in for the commissioner if Sir Peter was absent. His work is in turn spread between the four assistant commissioners.

Compulsory language plans are threatened

Teacher shortage may hit reform proposals

By DAVID TYTLER
EDUCATION EDITOR

A SERIOUS shortage of teachers could threaten the introduction of compulsory modern foreign language lessons for all children from 11 to 16, the government was warned yesterday.

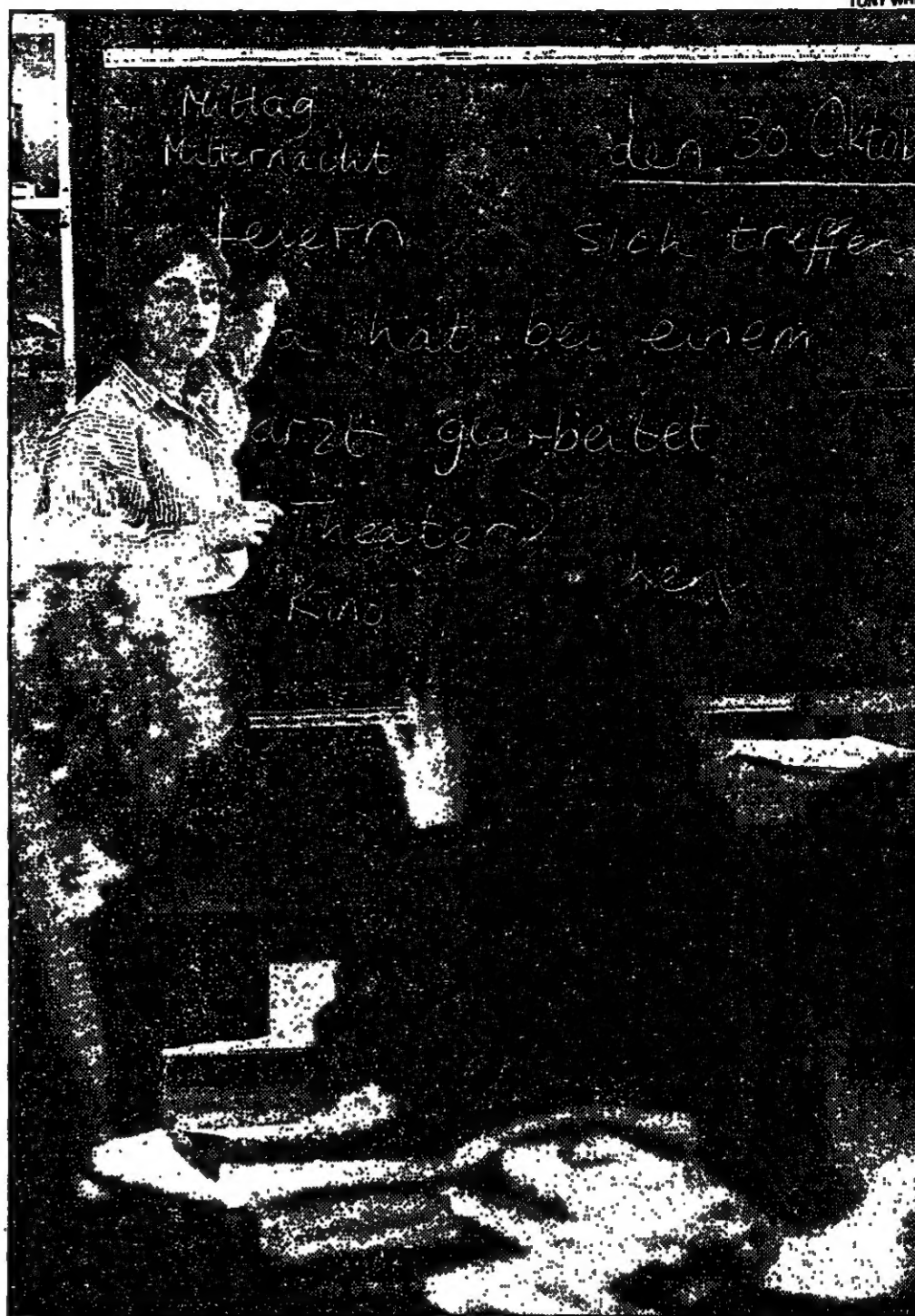
The final report of the national curriculum working party said that at least 1,750 additional teachers would be required. "We are clear that the perceived overall attractiveness of teaching as a career is the main influence on teacher supply, and that that this is an issue which the central government must continue to address vigorously." There must be improvements too in initial teacher training, continued training for qualified teachers and an increase in the supply of young foreign students to act as foreign language assistants.

The national curriculum would contain four attainment targets each with levels from one to ten: to understand spoken language and to respond appropriately, though not necessarily orally; to be able to converse and speak effectively; to read, understand and respond to written language and to be able to read and use books; and to write effectively.

The first task for an 11-year-old would be to understand and respond to a spoken command such as stand up, sit down, or shut the door, not necessarily to reply to the teacher in the language being taught. "Learners," the report said, "tend to be able to understand spoken language at a much higher level of sophistication than they can produce themselves."

At 16 children should be able to use sophisticated language of their own and be clearly understood at all levels of conversation and in writing. All lessons should concentrate on the art of being understood both verbally and in writing and, apart from reasons of safety, be taught in the foreign language.

The working party had originally suggested that there should be two separate lists of suitable languages with the first containing European ones and the second as alternatives. It has now recommended that there should be one list of 19 languages although schools will have to provide at least one EC language. John MacGregor, the education secretary, said: "I am sym-



Kathy Welsley teaching a German class at Newstead Wood school for girls, Orpington, Kent. "British children are as capable of learning a foreign language as any others"

thetic to the recommendation and minded to accept it subject to the outcome of consultations."

The list is: Arabic, Bengali, Chinese (Cantonese or Mandarin), Danish, Dutch, French, German, Greek, Gujarati, Hebrew, Hindi, Italian, Japanese, Punjabi, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish, Turkish and Urdu. "We believe," the working party said, "that this will go a long way towards meeting the main point of criticism - that it implies a hierarchy of languages."

British children were as capable of learning a foreign language as any others but that teaching methods in many schools would have to change, the report said. "Contrary to a commonly-held view there is plenty

of evidence that the British can make excellent linguists. It is true that the worldwide use of English as a *lingua franca* has in the past discouraged the learning of foreign languages in this country, but the recognition of the importance of being able to talk and write to our partners in other countries is now widespread. It benefits the country both economically and culturally." Up to 50 per cent of pupils now give up studying a modern language at 14.

Children who do not want to take a GCSE will be allowed to drop their language course if they achieve two of the four attainment targets, with the teachers choosing the two most appropriate for their pupils. Most

children will be expected to stay with the same language during their five years of school but it will be possible for some children to switch at 14 if they have a good enough reason. Martin Harris, vice-chancellor of Essex University and chairman of the working party, said: "We trust that they will use this flexibility only in very special circumstances and for diminishing numbers of pupils."

The proposals will now go to the National Curriculum Council for consultation which will return its report next February for the final decision to be made in May. The lessons are to be introduced for 11-year-olds in September 1992.

What children are expected to know

THE following are examples of what children will be expected to do under the working-party's recommendations:

Attainment target 1: understand spoken language and respond appropriately.

At 11-12: respond to stand up, sit down, shut the door, repeat, did you understand (pupil nods). Copy sentences, pick out a partner's name, age and family details from a conversation.

At 12-14: understand the cost of items and offer correct payment.

At 12-14: after watching a video of people talking about their jobs, discuss what their jobs were, follow directions on a simple route map, take down details from a telephone message, identify from a public announcement what is being said, and guess from the context what an unknown word means.

At 14-16: listen to a semi-complete report and suggest a possible outcome, use a telephone, listen to a talk and list the arguments for and against, listen to a programme on healthy living and compare its suggestions with their own life style and listen to a discussion on environmental issues and produce a leaflet with recommendations.

Attainment target 2: express oneself effectively in speech and conversation.

At 11-12: answer questions, join in games, use phrases such as I don't know, I don't understand, I've forgotten, and take

part in a simple conversation.

At 12-14: offer a simple explanation as to why something has happened, sustain a conversation about hobbies or school, describe feelings and talk about immediate plans.

At 14-16: converse with a foreign language speaker without knowing what is going to be said, put a point of view with reasons.

Attainment target 3: understand and respond to written language.

At 11-12: match labels to pictures, read and act out simple dialogue, understand notes, messages, postcards and news items.

At 12-14: respond to a written enquiry, identify key facts from a newspaper article, record your own story, reply to a letter.

At 14-16: compare an eyewitness account with that of a journalist, hold a discussion and be able to refute arguments, give a summary of a series of articles.

Attainment target 4: record and convey meaning in written language.

At 11-12: copy words and familiar phrases, write a shopping list, write several sentences.

At 12-14: compose a simple piece of dialogue, correct written material, complete a diary for a week, prepare a leaflet showing how to use local transport.

At 14-16: Write a report based on newspaper accounts, make arrangements for a holiday, imagine the story for a newspaper headline, and write about a controversial local event.

How others tackle language studies

By ALICE THOMSON

STUDENTS enrolling at Amsterdam university next year will be expected to speak several languages. The university has decided that a quarter of lectures will be in a foreign language. Philosophy lectures will be in German, and many sociology classes in English.

The Dutch take their language teaching seriously. Ninety-nine per cent of children learn two languages at secondary school and most children are trilingual by the time they take their baccalaureate at 18.

In Japan teaching is rigorous - most Japanese children can quote Shakespeare and distinguish a subjunctive from a gerund, but few Japanese could even order a coffee in English.

The Japanese system is based on learning by rote. The aim is not to be conversant in a language but to pass the exams. All children learn English from 11, but the vocabulary they learn would be of little use to them. They chant from their textbooks sentences like: "My neck feels like a piece of twisted bread," rather than: "Could you tell me the way to Buckingham Palace?"

Oxford university believes that when it opens a campus in Kobe in Japan next year its main function will be to teach students to speak fluently and to train them to utilise facts rather than merely absorb them.

In Italy, learning foreign languages has not been a priority, but the government is now introducing languages into primary schools, and it is compulsory for six-year-olds to learn a second language. English is most popular with six-year-olds, but older children can opt to learn German, Spanish and French.

In France, schools are also experimenting with teaching languages at primary level and the ministry of education wants to introduce language tuition in a quarter of all primary schools by the end of next year. It is compulsory to learn one language for the baccalaureate at 18.

The biggest problem faced by the education system in the United States is teaching immigrants English, and foreign language instruction is not considered a priority. Last year only a third of all children in high school learnt a foreign language. However, leading colleges demand one foreign language as an entry requirement.

In the past five years the Soviet Union has placed greater emphasis on foreign languages, and there are now 20 million people studying English. Children in all Soviet republics are expected to have mastered Russian and their mother tongue by the time they attend school and are taught English from the age of eight.

School sex manual under fire from union

By BILL FROST

A NEW manual on teaching sex to primary school pupils has come under fire from one of the teaching unions. The book, *Knowing Me, Knowing You*, was published yesterday and gives teachers advice on telling five to 11 year olds about contraception, sexual positions during intercourse, masturbation, homosexuality and the transmission of Aids.

Peter Dawson, the general secretary of the Professional Association of Teachers, said: "It is a corrupting influence. Children of that age cannot challenge these propositions - it is a form of indoctrination."

Pete Sanders and Liz Swinden, who wrote the book, describe it as a counterblast to the often ill-informed and haphazard way very young children find out about sex. Liz Swinden, a health education adviser in inner London, denied that the manual could encourage sexual activity among very young pupils. "In fact the figures show much lower rates of abortion and sexually transmitted diseases among the young in those countries where sex education is properly taught," she said.

The publishers of the manual have already received orders from 400 primary schools.

Mary Ann Sieghart, page 12

Liverpool acts to cut deficit

LIVERPOOL city council took emergency measures yesterday to cut its multi-million pound deficit and avoid the District Auditor by taking control of the city's finances (Ronald Faux writes).

The council's financial control sub-committee voted to take over all decisions on financial matters from the full council. This could effectively exclude members of the broad left from being involved in the city's financial planning. The decision is likely to provoke strong resentment among left-wing councillors at today's full council meeting.

Other measures agreed by the committee were an immediate freeze on future council appointments, stringent cost cutting measures and the possible introduction of charges for certain council services. The committee was told that deferred expenditure had reduced the probable deficit by £2 million to £10.1 million.

Appeal for deaf

Deaf people risk being isolated and uneducated because of a shortage of sign language interpreters, the British Deaf Association said yesterday. There are just 84 qualified interpreters for the 50,000 profoundly deaf people who communicate by sign language, it said. Launching its Manifesto 2000 appeal, the association called for more sign language teachers for schools for the deaf.

Farms blamed

Farm waste is the biggest cause of river pollution in many parts of the country and nothing less than a national strategy will help to overcome the problem, Lord Crickhowell, chairman of the National Rivers Authority, said yesterday. Farmers were often "entirely ignorant" of the damage they were causing to rivers, and many of the 10,000 farm discharges given consent in England and Wales were unsatisfactory.

Air fuel warning

Airlines were warned yesterday that the cost of aviation fuel could remain high if governments took advantage of the rise in oil prices to impose a "carbon tax" on fossil fuels. Dr Michael Grubb, a special adviser on climate and energy to the United Nations, told the International Air Transport Association, meeting in Geneva, that airlines had to press ahead with plans for more fuel-efficient engines.

Orchestra change

The chief executive of the company which manages the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra and Bournemouth Sinfonietta resigned yesterday. David Richardson, aged 49, who has been chairman of the Association of British Orchestras for eight years, is to become chief executive of the Manchester-based Halle Concerts Society, replacing Clive Smart, who is retiring after 32 years.

Police found guilty of racial bias in denying promotion

By CRAIG SETON

AN ASIAN police constable was unlawfully discriminated against on racial grounds when he was refused promotion to the CID with Nottinghamshire police, an industrial tribunal has found in a report published yesterday.

The tribunal, which began sitting in September last year, said in its 500-page findings that PC Surinder Singh, aged 34, the first serving officer to allege racism by a British police force, and two other Asian officers, now sergeants, were less favourably treated on grounds of race when they tried to transfer permanently to the CID.

The tribunal found that PC Singh's supervising officers had picked on his smallest mistakes and had given him little credit or praise before rejecting him as a detective. An investigation by the force of his complaints of racial bias by the CID was inadequate. The tribunal also found that one of the other officers, Sergeant Satinder Sharma, an Indian, aged 32, had been less favourably treated when he was omitted from a chief constable's commendation over the apprehension of a robber, although two other officers were commended.



Crompton: will not duck implications of report

The tribunal heard that Sergeant Neil Patani, originally from Uganda, who had ten O-levels and three A-levels, had gone on to pass his inspector's exam in 1988.

The tribunal criticised the force after it found that racist language and a racist ethos had, to some extent, permeated most levels of the force and crossed divisions. Racist language was without reprimand by senior officers. The tribunal, which delivered its judgment in Nottingham, said, however, that it was satisfied that there was no conspiracy to deny the ethnic officers permanent attachment to the CID, nor was there evidence of overt racism.

PC Singh, from Lenton, Nottingham, who joined the force in 1981, took the force to the tribunal claiming unlawful discrimination under the Race Relations Act. He is claiming exemplary damages from the chief constable of Nottinghamshire following his failure to gain promotion to the CID in 1987 while serving on an aidship scheme to assess his suitability as a detective.

PC Singh said after yesterday's victory that he intended to remain in the force. He is now expected to meet Daniel Crompton, the chief constable, to discuss his future. The force's legal officers have yet to decide whether to argue that all reasonable steps were taken to prevent discrimination against PC Singh.

The tribunal urged Nottinghamshire police in its report to implement further training and strict policy guide lines.

The Commission for Racial Equality said that PC Singh's victory would help other ethnic officers fulfil career aspira-

tions. John Whitmore, its legal director, said: "We hope this result will bring about an atmosphere of mutual respect in the force, and we hope these officers will not be marginalised and be regarded as a nuisance for bringing this case. What they have done is very brave."

Mr Crompton, the chief constable, said yesterday that the findings were not of overt racist behaviour but of racial discrimination, and he would not seek to duck or minimise its impact. He said disciplinary procedures might now be considered against some of the supervising officers named.

The Home Office said last night that the grievance took place before national guidance on equal opportunities was issued in 1989. Yesterday's decision would provide extra impetus for the development and examination of methods of selection and assessment.

Judgment underlines recruitment struggle

By STEWART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

PC SURINDER Singh's victory will send a shiver through the ranks of police recruiters who have been placed under increasing pressure to bring more officers from ethnic groups into the force. The case highlights not only the officer's difficulties in gaining promotion but also the continued existence of a "caneen culture" that tolerates racial abuse.

Although police leaders have worked hard to end a culture that encourages aggressiveness, populist attitudes and bigotry, recent research in London shows that a high proportion of the small number of officers from ethnic groups are still leaving their jobs prematurely.

Only a month ago senior officers in London were sent a report on seminars held for 400 black, Asian and white officers. They showed that a small minority of officers "behave in

an insensitive way towards their black or Asian colleagues by making reference to their colour, sex or origins, often in the guise of humour or as part of what is referred to as the police culture". Officers had high individual standards that could degenerate when they worked in groups and "there was an expressed disappointment at the lack of action by some supervisors and managers".

Inspector Jeff Braithwaite, who was born in Barbados, took part in the seminars and later repeated the story of an Asian officer who was constantly addressed as "Patel" by his inspector. The man's name was not Patel but the name was picked up by other officers and the constable resented it.

Mr Braithwaite, interviewed in the latest edition of the Police Federation's *Police* magazine, said: "I think the leadership has assumed in the past

that black officers have been able to cope with problems. It clearly emerged that individuals are suffering from discrimination."

A telephone "hotline" might be set up so that officers with complaints can receive counselling or advice. Ironically, the seminars took place just as Scotland Yard presented its first television commercials to recruit black people.

Twenty-two years after Scotland Yard accepted its first black officer, London has just over 450 officers from black or Asian backgrounds among 28,000 Metropolitan police. Ten years ago there were only 98 black or Asian officers. There were 1,300 officers from ethnic minority backgrounds serving among 126,000 officers in 42 forces in the rest of England and Wales at the end of last year. Attempts have been made to in-

crease recruitment by local initiatives and the Home Office has sponsored more work this year. In 1989, however, Scotland Yard recruited 1,791 officers from ethnic backgrounds, but 1,533 left the force.

The losses go some way to explaining why so few black or Asian officers have scaled the police ranks. The highest ranking officer in the country is Superintendent Tariq Ghaffar, who serves in the Leicestershire force.

In spite of the problems experienced by PC Singh times may be changing. A number of officers from ethnic minority backgrounds have won places on the special courses aimed at cultivating promising officers for the top ranks and a circular issued by the Home Office last year urging more work on equal opportunities is to be scrutinised by the inspectors of constabulary.

Kasparov blunders into a desperate position

By RAYMOND KEENE, CHESS CORRESPONDENT

GARY Kasparov, the world chess champion, has adjourned in a desperate position in the eighth game of the world championships against Anatoly Karpov in New York.

Kasparov had earlier seemed poised for victory but as the first session of play drew to a close early yesterday morning he committed a series of blunders. In the adjourned position Karpov, the challenger, is a pawn ahead but still faces technical difficulties.

The opening was once again a Ruy Lopez, duplicating that of game six until Kasparov varied on the 12th move. On move 14 Karpov introduced an entirely new idea which invited exchange in the centre of the board.

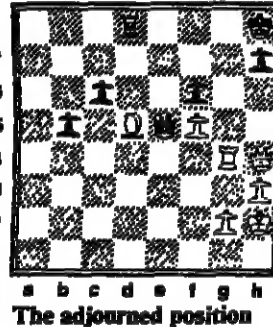
It became clear that Kasparov was building up a powerful initiative against Karpov's king's wing. On move 30, with all the trumps in his hand, Kasparov lost track of what was going on. Instead of playing the extremely powerful 30 Rf3 with the idea of pounding the black king's fortress by means of Rg3, Kasparov decentralised his queen on move 30, clearly overlooking Karpov's excellent defensive response.

Kasparov's 37th move, Rg4, not only threw away any remaining advantage but jeopardised any chance of saving the game by blundering his pawn on e3 to a queen capture.

Kasparov white, Karpov black

Black	White	Black	White
1 d4	d5	21 Rf1	Rd7
2 Nf3	Nc6	22 Nd2	Bd5+
3 Bb5	a6	23 Qd2	dxc4
4 Bxh6	Nf6	24 Qd3	Qc4
5 Bg5	Bc7	25 Qxc4	Rd8
6 Re1	b5	26 Nd3	Bd3
7 Bxh6	g6	27 Bxh6	Bxh6
8 c3	g5	28 Qxh6	Qc3
9 h3	Nd7	29 Qd3	Bd7
10 Qd3	Bg7	30 Qd4	Qd5
11 Bg5	Bd7	31 Qd5	Qd5
12 Bxh6	Qd7	32 Kh1	Qc5
13 Bc2	Nd5	33 Qd5	Qd5
14 Bc1	Qd5	34 Bxh6	Kg7
15 Qd5	Nd5	35 Qd5	Qd5
16 Nf3	Nd5	36 Rf1	Qd5
17 Qd5	Nd5	37 Nd3	Qd5
18 Qd5	Qd5	38 Qd5	Qd5
19 Qd5	Qd5	39 Qd5	Qd5
20 Qd5	Qd5	40 Qd5	Qd5

Game adjourned



The adjourned position

Richard III gains mark of respect

By ALAN HAMILTON

THE last resting place of the English king who suffered like no other from bad public relations was finally marked yesterday with the help of the National Westminster Bank and the man who, with but a tiny touch on the tiller of history, would have assumed his name, title and crown.

Members of the Richard III Society, dedicated to undoing some of the wrongs of Shakespeare against the last of the Plantagenets, gathered at the wall of a Leicester bank for the unveiling of a plaque by their patron, the Duke of Gloucester. Had George VI refused the throne on the abdication of his will elder brother, Edward VIII, the succession would have passed to the next brother in line, the late Duke of Gloucester, in which case his son would probably be reigning today as Richard IV.

For want of a horse, the earlier Richard of Gloucester fell at Bosworth in 1485, and his body was buried at the priory of Greyfriars, whose only remnant is a fragment of wall near the bank. For 505 years his place of interment, which is not known with any precision, was unrecorded.

The society, founded in 1924 and claiming some 4,000 members, has worked hard to will redress Shakespeare's Tudor and propagandist image of a laune-malevolent hunchback not servit'hap'd for sportive tricks, who schemed the murder of the being little princes in the Tower.

Elizabeth Nokes, general secretary of the society, said it will yesterday: "We are slowly on charming in our efforts to legal success Richard's good side."

Surrogacy case couple to get full parental rights

By FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

A COUPLE who faced having to adopt their own twins born to a host mother are to become the children's legal parents when a new law comes into force next year. In an agreement reached in the High Court family division, the couple decided to apply to become the legal parents of the twins when the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Bill becomes law, probably next October.

The agreement, in a private hearing before Mr Justice Scott Baker, removes the threat of lengthy court action to test the legal rights of parents whose children are born through surrogacy. Until now, such parents had no legal right to the child and have been faced with adoption procedures to establish their legal parentage. In law, the mother is the person from whose womb the baby is born. The embryo bill, which will receive Royal Assent at the end of this week, will, however, enable parents of babies born by surrogacy to become legal parents by a court order, if the woman who gave birth agrees.

The couple, who live in Cumbria, paid Ann Hargreaves, aged 26, £4,000 to receive two of the wife's eggs, fertilised by the husband's sperm. The wife, aged 32, has no womb. Mrs Hargreaves, from Derby, gave birth to a boy and girl, now 17 months old, who were handed over to their genetic parents at birth, but Cumbria county council then insisted that the couple must register as foster parents. The council said that since Mrs Hargreaves was the legal

mother, the couple could only become the children's parents through adoption.

After a day-long private hearing on Monday, the judge said it had been agreed that the genetic parents would wait until the bill became law and apply for an order establishing that they were the legal parents under its provisions. The council will, in return, drop its action to force them to register as foster parents. The judge said the genetic mother had no womb but had ovaries. Two eggs were taken from her ovaries, fertilised by her husband's sperm and then implanted in the womb of a surrogate mother who later gave birth to twins.

It had not been disputed that the twins should go to the couple, he said, but the council had become involved because of the legal position. It was agreed that the children would remain wards of court until the new legislation came into effect and the genetic parents made their application.

Derek Forrest, the couple's



Mr Justice Scott Baker: no dispute on parentage

solicitor, pointed out, however, couples with children born through surrogacy would still have to receive consent from the host parents. "We are grateful for small mercies. But the law does not go as far as it could. Where the surrogate parents consent, you can go to court and get an order which recognises the child is the child of the marriage. But what happens when the surrogate parent says no?"

Mr Forrest said, however, that the court had in no way endorsed surrogacy.

He predicted that ultimately the law will have to change. "Public opinion will ensure it moves in favour of surrogacy arrangements... It will have to - there are going to be so many of them."

More than 70 couples are thought to have had children through surrogacy in Britain, although commercial agencies were outlawed in 1985. Arrangements such as those in yesterday's case are private.

The case of the Cumbrian couple is thought to be unique, however. Normally the surrogate's own eggs are used, fertilised with the sperm of the husband from the commissioning couple. This couple argued, however, that since they created the embryos, they were the genetic parents and this should be recognised in law.

The British case sparked a medical and legal controversy during the passage of the embryo bill and a move by a group of peers last March to have genetic parents recognised as the legal parents.

The children cannot be identified.

Radio 3 faces independent rival

RADIO 3 is likely to have a national commercial competitor by the end of next year, after the shadow Radio Authority confirmed yesterday that bids for the FM band would be limited to consortia planning classical, light classical or easy listening music.

The move will disappoint rock music aficionados and luminaries, including Paul McCartney and Phil Collins, who signed a petition to persuade the authority not to exclude album rock music from the national FM licence.

Rock FM and other pop consortia will be limited to bidding for the inferior AM

that there is sufficient national demand for anything but classical music or a mix of classical and easy listening music.

Although the Radio Authority said last month it was likely to allow rock music on the "non-pop" FM station, the government gave in to a vociferous classical music lobby to define rock music "and any other kinds of modern popular music characterised by a strong rhythmic element and a reliance on electronic amplification" as pop.

independent national radio licence.

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Marsh 'sure he had killed Warren'

By MICHAEL HORNESELL

the close RISONER on remand in subscription wood Scrubs with Terry 1988 forsh told a jury yesterday plans to the former world champion boxer described to him the ers. Thight he shot Frank Warren. services using the alias Peter Harris groups, avoid identification by leisure low prisoners, the prosecution witness entered court in Jenni4 glasses and a hooded red BBC Enrak. Harris, aged 36, who pany, show serving two and a half service ars for fraud and deception, because of the Central Criminal deccodert of an alleged conversa-problem with Mr Marsh in the rather t and wing exercise yard.

The after the boxer's arrest, lawyers, he said that Mr Marsh, easily 12, described how he had said. Tinn convinced he had left Mr subscrip ren for dead after shoot-to be kerrn. Mr Marsh allegedly ments an that while he was in very inst on remand the gun was information on again by unsuspec-five years, used again by an armed book on persons on an armed Regular y to deceive police transmitted who had shot Mr War-the early hor Marsh, who denies

attempted murder, allegedly added that he hated his manager and remarked: "Frank Warren ties people up in legal documents and then stuffs them right through to the end and leaves them penniless."

Harris later admitted to the court convictions involving fraud and violence. Under cross-examination by Richard Ferguson, QC, for Mr Marsh, he said that when he was last arrested and charged with fraud and deception, he was in possession of 20 stolen credit cards, three cheque books, seven driving licences, 17 bank cash cards, three vehicle registration documents, two birth certificates, an insurance certificate, two P45 forms, AA and other membership cards and a British visitor's passport.

Harris said that he had learned of Mr Marsh's arrest on the radio and that the boxer's arrival was common knowledge. Two days later Harris left Wormwood Scrubs and had been bailed to appear

in court when he spoke to the officer in his own case and made a statement. Asked by Ann Curnow, QC, for the prosecution, why he had decided to inform the police, Harris said: "There was no particular reason. It was just general talk with the officer. It was a topic of conversation that I had spoken to Terry Marsh and the officer spoke to me a little bit further and things progressed from there."

Under cross-examination, Harris told Mr Ferguson that the two and a half year sentence he got in July was what he had expected. Mr Ferguson suggested that at the time of his alleged conversation with Terry Marsh he was in "big trouble" facing charges of credit card fraud and possession of drugs for which he could expect at least four years, Harris said, however, his solicitor had told him to expect 2½-3½ years.

Mr Ferguson said: "I suggest there is not a word of

truth in what you have told this court about what you say Terry Marsh said to you."

Harris: "No."

Mr Ferguson: "I suggest that you are a man, as demonstrated by your record, who is an inveterate and habitual liar." Harris: "Criminal yes, liar no."

Under re-examination by Miss Curnow, Harris described as "rubbish" the suggestion that he had gone into the witness box to give evidence to make his position easier when he came up for sentence.

Police later described a search they made of the home of Mr Marsh's parents in Basildon, Essex, soon after the boxer's arrest. In the loft a firearms licence application was found in a kit bag together with a green army-style jacket with a hood. In a locker there was live and spent 9mm cartridge cases. A pair of training shoes was also found in the front bedroom. The trial continues today.

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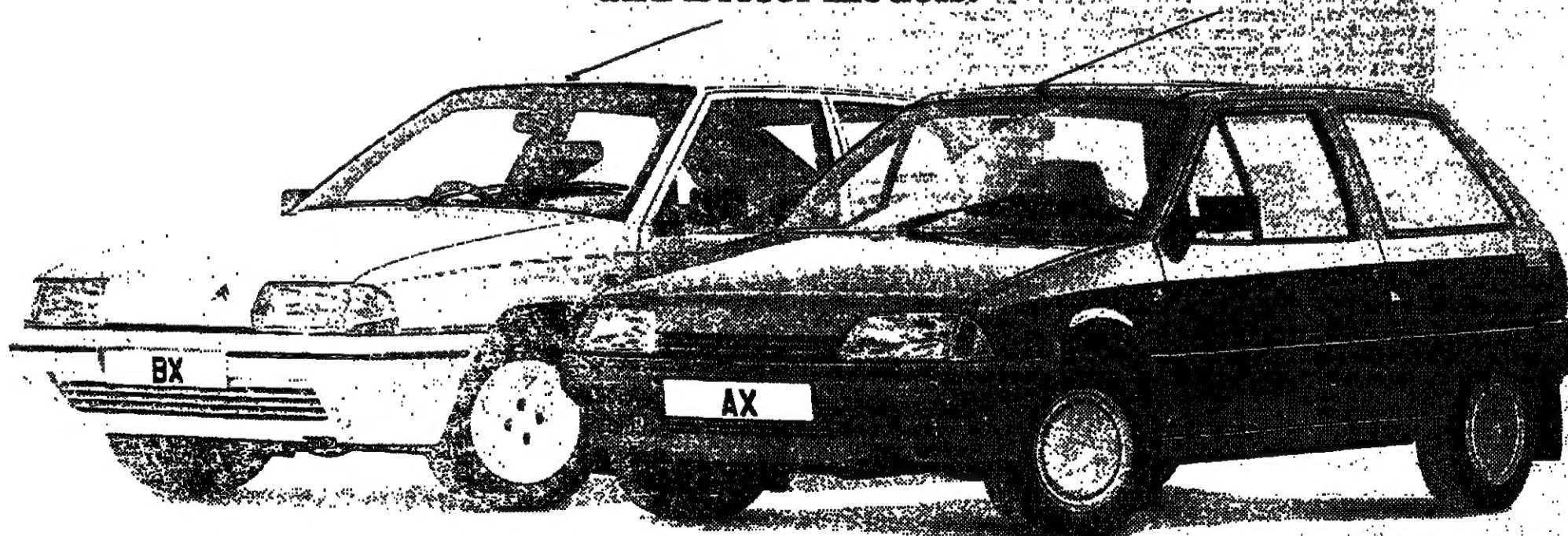
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Enquiry urged as court challenge on Marchioness fails

By LIN JENKINS

SURVIVORS and relatives of those who died in the Marchioness tragedy are calling for a public enquiry into the disaster after a High Court challenge against the Director of Public Prosecutions' decision not to bring manslaughter charges failed yesterday.

Mr Justice Nolan, refusing the application for leave to seek a judicial review, expressed sympathy with the wish of those involved to get a proper enquiry into the causes and events of the night.

Announcing his decision, he added: "The sinking of the Marchioness was an appalling tragedy. It is entirely understandable that the survivors and relatives of those who died and those who are concerned with the safe passage of vessels on the Thames seek a full public enquiry into its

causes. This application does not afford the right means of securing such an enquiry."

Mr Justice Nolan refused the application brought by Dominic Langlands-Pearse, who survived the events of the night of August 20, 1989, when his wife died as the Marchioness pleasure boat sank after colliding with the dredger Bowbelle. He had claimed that Allan Green, QC, the Director of Public Prosecutions, had acted unlawfully and unreasonably in not bringing charges of manslaughter, or others under the Merchant Shipping Act 1988.

The judge said he accepted the remarks of Stephen Sedley, QC, for Mr Langlands-Pearse, that the case had not been brought in a vindictive spirit. He made an order under the Contempt of Court

Act 1981 that the evidence, argument and other comments he had made not be reported until after the trial of Douglas Henderson, captain of the Bowbelle, on a charge of failing to ensure there was a proper lookout.

Relatives of the 51 who died were last night disappointed with the decision, but welcomed the judge's understanding of their demand for a full public enquiry. The inquest into the deaths has been halted pending Mr Henderson's trial and is likely to be formally ended afterwards.

Eileen Dalaglio, whose daughter Francesca, aged 19, was the youngest victim, said after listening to the judgment in court: "It has been 14 months and we have still not been told what happened. The only examination of what happened was the marine accident investigation branch of the transport department and we were not allowed to be there or have our lawyers present. The report is being kept secret."

"It is still a most painful experience to think what happened to my daughter and not to know why or how it happened. My child was left fighting for her life for 15 minutes in that water and we still have no answer as to why the emergency services took so long."

Venothi Ellington-Bambala, who lost her son Paul in the sinking, said after hearing the judge's decision: "We only want to know what happened. Everybody assumes there is a public enquiry after something like this and yet we have not had one."

Linda Ali-Hunt, who lost her only child Julie, aged 26, called for a change in the law to establish a formal response to disasters. "There is no automatic right to a public enquiry. The inquest has been stopped and is unlikely to hear more evidence, so we are just kept in the dark."

Lawyers acting for relatives and survivors are considering the possibility of appealing against Mr Justice Nolan's ruling. Louise Christian, for Mr Langlands-Pearse, said: "We will be looking at what options there are, but will certainly be asking the secretary of state to reconsider the case for a full public enquiry." She said that the question of bringing a private prosecution had not been ruled out.

Purley driver's prison term cut

THE train driver who caused the Purley train crash in which five people died is expected to leave prison on Friday after the appeal court reduced his sentence yesterday (Lin Jenkins writes).

British Rail said last night that Robert Morgan would return to work after his release and would probably drive empty trains in sidings.

Morgan, aged 47, admitted two specimens charges of manslaughter after the accident on March 4 last year, and was sentenced to 18 months in jail with 12 suspended. The court yesterday reduced the custodial term to four months.

Derek Fullick, general secretary of the train drivers' union Aslef, said the union would consider advising drivers, in the light of remarks by the appeal judges, to reduce speeds. He said the ruling had serious safety implications which he would be discussing today with Robert Reid, the British Rail chairman.

Lord Lane, the Lord Chief Justice, said the risk of death on the rail network through disregard of signalling systems was so high that punishment was deserved. However, the jail term had been too long. Morgan, of Ferring, West Sussex, was driving the Littlehampton to Victoria train when it hit the rear of the

Horsham to Victoria service just outside Purley station.

Lord Lane, sitting with Mr Justice Roch and Mr Justice Auld, said Morgan had ignored warning signals for reasons that would probably never be understood and had been travelling at about 70 mph when he met a final red light and could not stop.

Mr Christopher Wren, aged 86, of Hove, East Sussex, who was injured in the crash, said he was pleased that Morgan's sentence had been reduced. "He made a mistake and I make mistakes myself, only when a train driver makes a mistake the consequences are very serious. I think he has suffered enough."



Morgan returning to work for British Rail

Arts student banned from rail bridges

An arts student from Blackpool was yesterday banned from every railway bridge in Britain for his part in a plot to paint murals and bizarre lettering on British Rail property.

Magistrates in Blackpool were told that Alexander Maddox, aged 17, was traced to his parents' home by British transport police officers who discovered spray paints, marker pens and photographs of his work. Maddox admitted seven offences of criminal damage to British Rail property. He was remanded on bail for a week on condition that he keeps away from bridges.

Murder attempt

A prisoner who tried to strangle a fellow inmate because he thought he was a sex offender was jailed for life yesterday by Stafford magistrates, Staffordshire. Alan Baker, aged 21, of Dulwich, southeast London, pleaded guilty to attempted murder in his cell at Swinfen Hall, Lichfield.

Speed trappers

A fleet of unmarked police cars will be on patrol in Devon and Cornwall during the next few months to try to cut the number of deaths caused by speeding drivers.

Guard killed

A railway guard was killed after falling from a train at Ruscombe, near Reading, Berkshire, yesterday. The alarm was raised by passengers who spotted an open door on the Glasgow to Brighton express.

Russian cheers

Joan and Ruth Prior, of Hambleton, Leicestershire, are to run the first British public house in Russia. The Brown Bear will open in Moscow next month.

Bat problem

A £200,000 restoration programme at St Erme House, near Truro, Cornwall, has been delayed after contractors discovered a colony of protected whiskered bats.

600 pigs die

Six hundred pigs were killed and 1,500 were rescued in a blaze at a farm at Wetheringsett, in Suffolk.

Leeds centre gets birthmark laser

By PETER DAVENPORT

THE first NHS centre in England to offer treatment of disfiguring "port-wine" birthmarks with a laser technology pioneered in the United States is to open tomorrow at the Leeds General Infirmary.

Initially the system will be used to treat adults and children aged over five years, but it will eventually be expanded to treat babies as young as three weeks.

The treatment uses a tunable dye laser, a significant advance on the current argon laser technology in that it emits pulses of light rather than a continuous stream, ensuring that heat does not diffuse into skin tissue surrounding the birthmark and carries no risk of scarring. Argon laser treatment is available only to patients aged more than 17.

It is intended that the machine will be used primarily on children and treatment will be carried out under the direction of John Cooter, a consultant dermatologist. Hospital staff said yesterday that they had a list of 120 patients requiring immediate treatment and a further waiting list stretching over the next

18 months. They come from as far afield as South Wales, Norfolk and Tessaide.

Recent medical research estimates that one in three children are born with some form of vascular mark and that as many as one in a hundred people are seeking medical assistance for disfiguring birthmarks.

The new laser has been paid for by the £1 million "Laserlight appeal" of the Disfigurement Guidance Centre, assisted by the BBC Children in Need appeal.

Yesterday, Doreen Trust, who founded the centre more than 30 years ago with her husband, Peter, said that it was hoped the appeal would pay for equipment for five centres. The first went into operation at the Bangour hospital, in Edinburgh, in June and has already been used on more than 100 children. The next will be at the Bridgend hospital, Cardiff. It is expected that the other two will go to the south of England.

The treatment is available privately in London, but the aim of the centre's appeal was to ensure that it would also be possible under the NHS.

Germans rebuked on Sunday closing plan

THE English Tourist Board yesterday criticised a German proposal to close most EC businesses on Sundays.

Germany is planning an amendment to a draft directive which would make it an offence to open a shop on a Sunday throughout Europe, with almost all businesses closed. The plan is, however, opposed by Britain.

William Davis, chairman of the tourist board, said that the board did not think that any other country should be able to tell Britons how to spend their Sundays. "The German proposal is disturbing and I am amazed to see they have made it," he said. "I don't think it will get anywhere but we should take careful note of what other countries in the EC are doing."

Mr Davis was speaking in London as the tourist board launched a campaign to help

brighten up the English weekend. The board also proposed moving the May Day bank holiday to the first or second Monday in October to help spread public holidays around the year.

Among a list of board suggestions for Sundays were that all shops be allowed to open, that attractions such as the Tower of London should be open, that spectator sports should be held and that more theatre performances should be staged.

"There are some absurd gaps and inconsistencies in present Sunday trading laws," Mr Davis said. "Also we feel many attractions would benefit from opening on Sundays." The board also called for improved weekend public transport services and a change in Britain's clocks to allow an extra hour's evening light in winter and summer.

Philanthropist seeks to win his Spurs

By JOHN GOODBODY
SPORTS NEWS
CORRESPONDENT

THE publisher Robert Maxwell is philanthropic in his attitude to football. When he invested in Derby County, where he is chairman, he said: "I do not buy yachts or pictures. I prefer to put my money into helping football."

The tangled negotiations over Tottenham Hotspur plc, in which Mr Maxwell could become the main shareholder, should be slightly unravelled this week when a detailed circular about its financial position will be published. This could be the first stage in Robert Maxwell acquiring 25.1 per cent of the north London club at a cost of £13 million. However, it will force him and his family to sell most of their shares in Derby County, of which he is chairman with 70 per cent of the shares, and Oxford United, where his son Kevin is chairman, and also Reading, where the family owns 23 per cent of the shares.

Under Football League regulations, no one may hold more than 10 per cent of shares in more than one club. Originally, this did not apply to Mr Maxwell because his sons alternated with their father as chairmen of the clubs. However, in 1987, when Mr Maxwell attempted to buy Watford, the League said that the rule excluded family and business associates from holding office in more than one club. This was not retrospective, so the family interest in Oxford and Derby remained.

The League has decided that the £1.1 million loan in August by Mr Maxwell to Irving Scholar, who on Monday resigned as chairman of Tottenham Hotspur plc although he remains as chairman of the football club,



Financial sweeper: Maxwell supporting Derby County, where he is chairman

does not contravene its regulations. The money was needed by Tottenham largely to pay Barcelona for the final instalment on the transfer of Gary Lineker, the England forward. However,

if the league is satisfied, the Stock Exchange is not. It is awaiting clarification of events surrounding the dealings between Mr Maxwell and Mr Scholar. The Stock Exchange has studied a re-

port by Ashurst Morris Crisp, the City lawyer, which is believed to be critical of Mr Scholar and other Tottenham directors. It is also thought to be unhappy over the secrecy of the talks

between Mr Maxwell and Mr Scholar, even if it is understood that Mr Scholar had advised that the loan did not require disclosure.

The circular has been delayed because the directors of Tottenham Hotspur plc, of which the football club is a subsidiary, could not agree on a statement about Mr Scholar's negotiations with Mr Maxwell.

Mr Scholar is typical of many football club chairmen. Because there is a regulation limiting dividend payment by clubs, most directors are in the game out of interest or for status.

Mr Scholar became a devotee of Tottenham, acquired the club in 1982 and the following year launched Tottenham Hotspur plc, the first league club to be listed on the Stock Exchange. The club diversified in to leisurewear, books and computer products. However, these were not successful and with the rebuilding of the east stand for £7 million and heavy dealings in the transfer market increasing its debt, Tottenham reached financial crisis last summer.

Mr Maxwell seemed the ideal man to help, because few investors would have wanted to buy shares in such a risky venture as a football club. He also wanted Mr Scholar to continue to run the club.

He likes the game and, curiously for a man who could become the biggest shareholder in Tottenham Hotspur, became a supporter of Arsenal. Tottenham's north London rival, in 1938 when it toured his native Czechoslovakia. Being the biggest shareholder at Tottenham would be more in keeping with his status than being chairman at Derby, where he spent just 40 minutes watching the team last season.

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Howard gives jobs warning on EC plans

By PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

THE European Commission's proposed employment legislation could cost British employers an extra £3 billion and might mean the loss of thousands of jobs, Michael Howard, the employment secretary, said yesterday.

Mr Howard said that the commission's social action programme stemming from its social charter was fundamentally flawed. The programme proposes 47 legislative measures to ensure the social dimension of the single European market in 1992. The government is opposed to a number of the proposals, arguing that they reintroduce regulation of business and bring in socialism by the back door.

The commission is introducing directives this year on temporary and part-time workers, on working time, on employment contracts, on pregnant women and on health and safety, which the government will have to introduce as British legislation. Ministers have been fighting to change the detail of some of the proposals.

Mr Howard told a Confederation of British Industry conference in London that the employment department calculated that the initial proposals would add £3 billion to employers' direct costs. These were, however, initial costs and employees could be affected by further costs, including loss of earnings.

The commission plans to improve the conditions of part-time workers, in many cases making them equivalent to full-time employees. Mr Howard said that this would

cost £1 billion and imperil tens of thousands of jobs. The commission is also proposing new mandatory rest periods and restrictions on night and shift working. Mr Howard said that if these were introduced, 10 per cent of British working patterns would have to be changed. Jobs would be lost and companies forced to close. Extra costs would be at least £2 billion.

On the issue of pregnant women, proposed changes include 14 weeks' maternity leave on full pay. Mr Howard said that this provision would cost companies more than £400 million a year.

Mr Howard said that the proposals were driven by an outdated desire to regulate and harmonise and were inconsistent with community economic and social objectives. He also criticised Vasso Papandreou, the EC social commissioner, saying that she was not in a position to judge the impact of the proposals because the EC had refused to assess their economic and employment effects.



In harmony: The singer Jacqueline Dankworth and pre-school youngsters joined up in Trafalgar Square yesterday to launch the Festival of Winter Songs and raise funds for the Pre-school Playgroups Association

Redundant miners 'have become a wasted asset'

By PETER DAVENPORT

MINERS made redundant in the contracting coal industry since the end of the year-long strike in 1985 are having to take lower paid jobs because of poor retraining opportunities, according to a report published today.

The document produced by the Coalfield Communities Campaign, an organisation representing coalfield authorities in England, Scotland and

Wales, says that the former miners could make up a valuable skilled work force to help regenerate their areas but instead are being allowed to become a wasted asset.

Since the strike, 140,000 jobs have been lost and more than 100 collieries closed. Of those made redundant, the average were out of work for nine months and a quarter took more than a year to find alternative work. Despite redundancy payments, few of

the men were tempted into self-employment.

Stephen Witt, national research officer for the campaign and author of the report, *When the Pit Closes: The Employment Experiences of Redundant Miners*, said: "Most of those who opt for self-employment merely continue to use their craft skills in a different sector."

In areas where mining remains important, a significant number of

men immediately returned to the industry with private contractors.

They were joined by men who could not find alternative well-paid jobs. "With many mining contractors employing men only on short-term contracts, this often reluctant return to mining offers no long-term security," says the report. However, it adds that only those returning to mining maintained earnings at a comparable level.

City man leads trust to help people in debt

An eminent City figure aims to persuade the finance industry to provide more funds to tackle the debt crisis. Ruth Gledhill reports

A FORMER deputy governor of the Bank of England is to head a trust to support money advice services as recommended by the Ezra report.

The working party made clear that any improved funding by the finance industry was "to alleviate the present situation and not as a substitute for other sources of funding". However, the environment department recently ended its funding for National Debtline, a telephone advice service that is part of the Birmingham Settlement. The money went instead to help the homeless.

The debtline, which had received an annual grant of £32,500, has built a reputation for solving some of the most severe debt problems. The threat of imminent closure has been staved off because members of the Retail Credit Group have individually put in enough to replace the government funds. The service's longer term future is still uncertain.

In Manchester, the self-help group Support in Debt (SID) will fold if there is no firm funding commitment by the end of next month. It has helped hundreds of people around the country and has a core membership of about 30 people, who meet in Manchester.

Stuart Giles, who founded SID three years ago, said: "I do not think people take what we do seriously. The work done by Citizens Advice bureaux and money advice agencies is cosmetic. We deal with the real problems by talking and counselling. We have been working with some of our clients for three or four years. Advice centres give money advice, not debt counselling."

SID has received little funding beyond £2,000 from the National Westminster Bank, £200 from a local company and £1,000 from a local businessman. All the work has been unpaid.

"If we could get the funding I could do this full time and set up self-help groups all over the country. I am talking about £500,000, a drop in the ocean. We have decided that if we cannot do it properly we would rather get out of the rat race of debt."

Mr Giles said it was wrong to blame finance companies for irresponsible lending. "I honestly believe that 95 per cent of finance companies give money responsibly. The question is how many people take it responsibly."



Stuart Giles, right, of the self-help group Support in Debt offers advice to a client

Support unit finds growing problems

By PETER VICTOR

DEBT problems are becoming increasingly severe, with growing mortgage arrears, bankruptcies, business failures and repossessions, according to the London Money Advice Support Unit, which provides training and follow-up support for London's 135 citizens' advice bureaux.

Kay Birch, the agency's manager, said that irresponsible firms offering to convert debts into secured loans at high interest rates and lenders charging rates of up to 636 per cent APR made the problem worse.

The agency was launched last April and has been granted £100,000 a year from Citibank towards its first three years' costs. It runs a consultancy for debt counsellors as well as providing training.

In its first year, the unit took 640 calls. Cases referred to the agency usually involve multiple debts. The unit in the London borough of Merton, for example, reports that four out of five

of its clients have at least five debts. Nearly a quarter have 10 or more outstanding commitments. They owe an average of more than £8,500, including arrears on first mortgages. This amount, the unit says, is enough to trigger homelessness and the loss of services.

"People are quite frightened by debt," Miss Birch said. "Our advisers have to build up relationships with clients before we can start to tackle the problem. Quite a few clients have other problems... All that has to be taken into consideration as well."

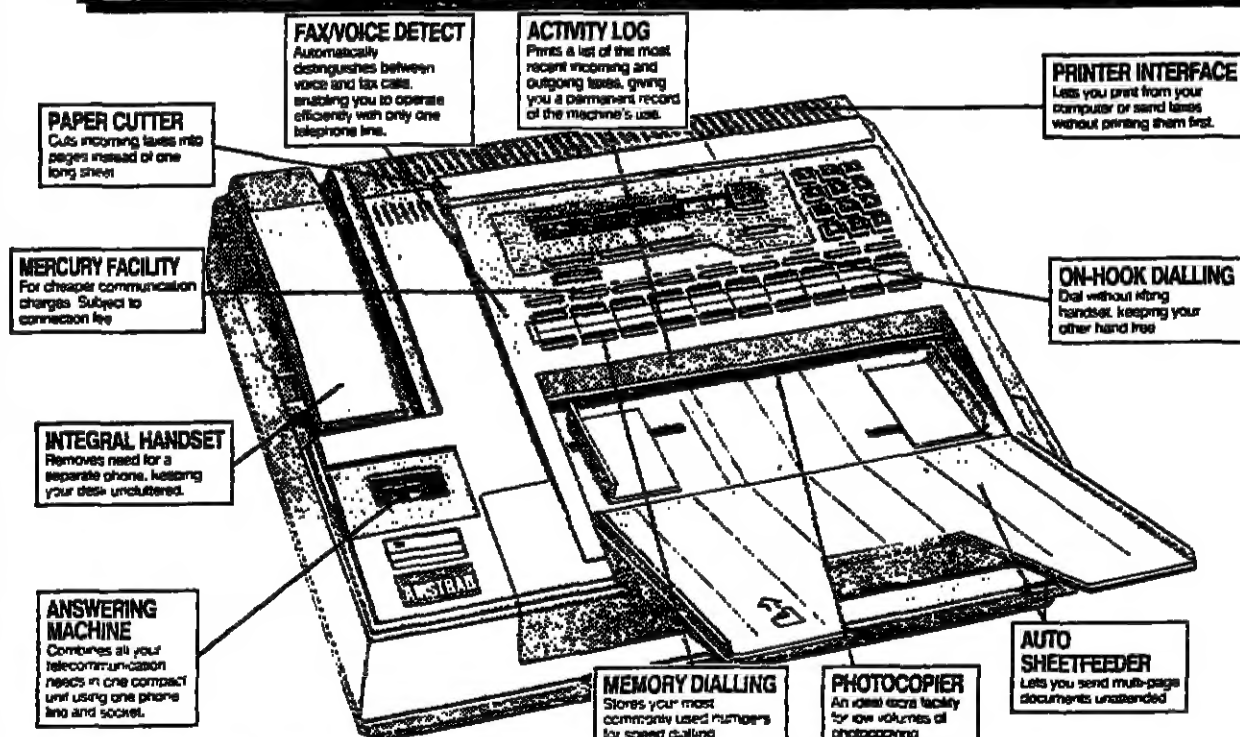
"Our cases come from socio-economic groups across the board," she said. One case the agency dealt with involved a client whose salary was more than £120,000.

Paul Cohen, Citibank's UK consumer services manager, called on other financial institutions to support such agencies, saying that the future looked bleak with the prospect of a recession.

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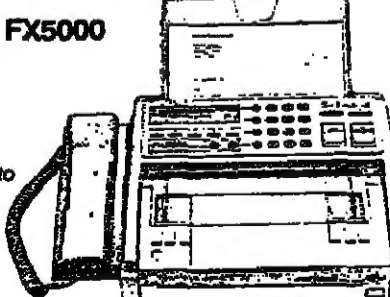
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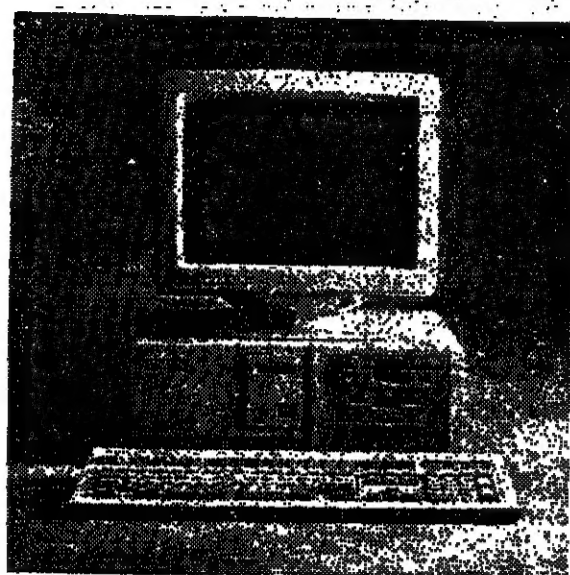
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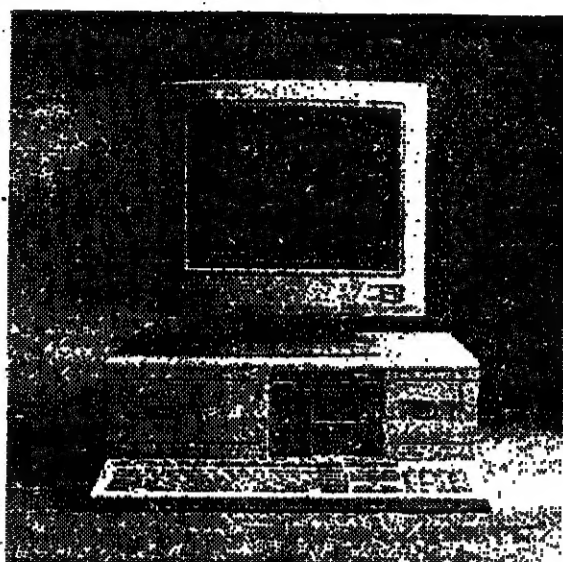
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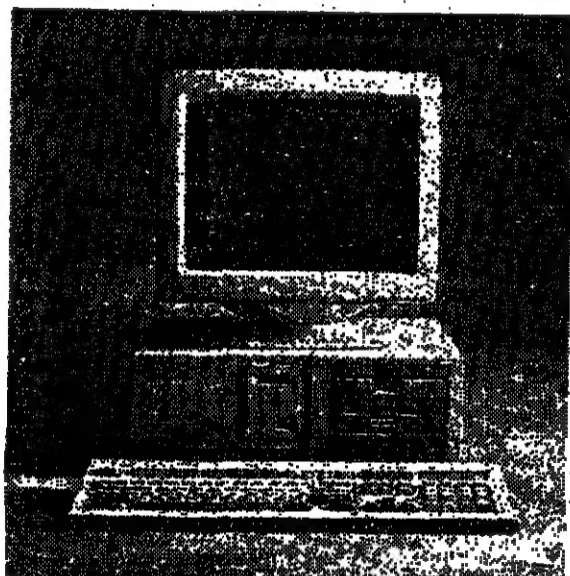
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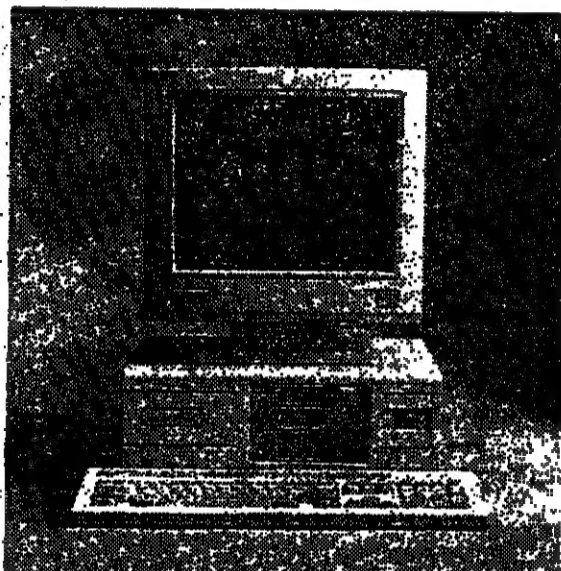
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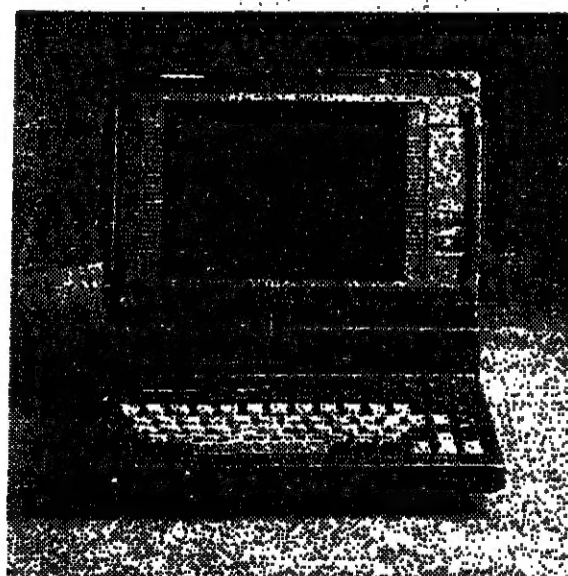
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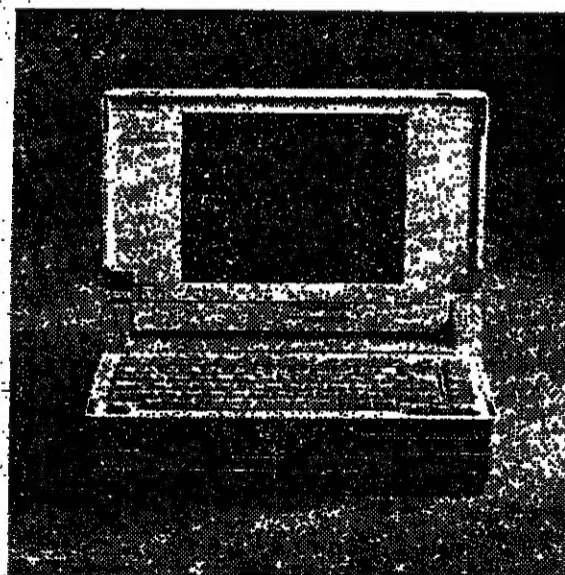
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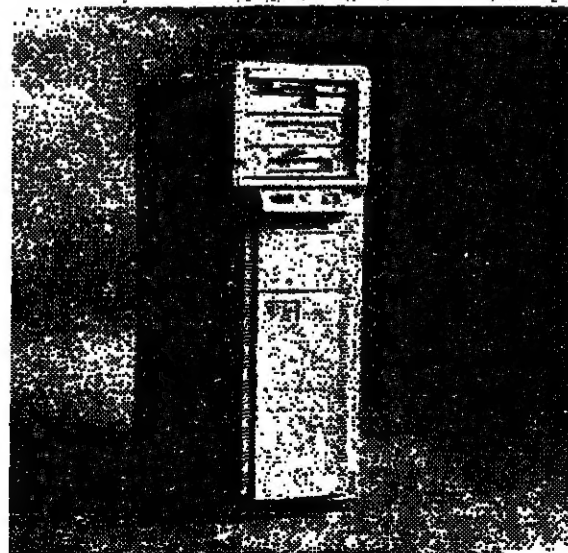
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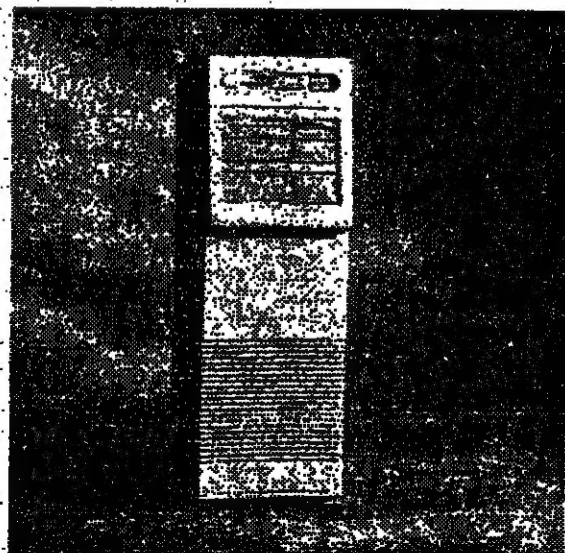
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PEERS

House decides to avoid row

By PETER MULLIGAN

PEERS voted by a narrow majority yesterday not to enter constitutional "ping pong" with MPs over an amendment to the Broadcasting Bill designed to safeguard documentaries.

In a big turnout, they voted by 148 to 135 against such a move after Earl Ferrers, the Home Office minister, said that the whole bill could be lost if the two Houses continued to disagree.

The amendment would have added documentaries, education and social action programmes to a list of new commercial television companies on Channel 5 must include in their schedules.

Peers from all sides expressed fears that, without it, these programmes might be squeezed out on cost grounds. The government, however, responded that the television companies must anyway meet a "quality threshold".

The amendment was passed, in a slightly different form, by the Lords with a majority of 27 and then rejected last week by a 100 majority in the Commons.

Yesterday, Lord David, the Labour peer, accused the government of being unprepared to take the necessary action to preserve quality. He said: "We do want to avoid what happened in other countries where, in a deregulated climate, the service has markedly deteriorated".

Lord Norrie, from the Conservative benches, described the programmes as an endangered species. They were vital, brilliant and informative but costly and time-consuming to produce, he said.

Lord Willis, the Labour peer and television playwright, said that there would not be enough advertising to go round and the pressure would be to reduce the cost of programmes. "The pressure will be to get rid of documentaries, to get rid of the things which have been the pride and treasure of British television", he said.

However, Lord Renton, Conservative, said that it was not the job of the revising chamber — "by banging on endlessly" — to send unnecessary matters of detail back to MPs. Lord Wyatt of Weald, the independent peer, suggested that the amendment was an attempt to sabotage the whole bill with the end of the parliamentary session so close.

Thatcher tells MPs 'hard ecu' might lead to one currency

By ROBIN OAKLEY, POLITICAL EDITOR

MARGARET Thatcher acknowledged yesterday that Britain's "hard-ecu" plan for a common currency could lead eventually to a single European currency. But she insisted that it would have to be a voluntary arrangement, not one imposed by the European Community.

At one stage she appeared to hint that the question could be determined by referendum of the British people.

Her initial statement on the Rome European Council was seen as more conciliatory than her interview comments after the meeting had promised. But as questions continued in a noisy Commons, exposing the divisions on both sides of the House, Mrs Thatcher's language became more colourful. The government would never hand over the powers of

Parliament to Brussels, she said; abandoning sterling in favour of a single European currency would amount to doing just that.

Reporting on the Rome summit, Mrs Thatcher said: "On economic and monetary union, I stressed that we would be ready to move beyond the present position to the creation of a European monetary fund and a common Community currency which we have called a hard ecu".

She told MPs: "Britain intends to be part of the further political, economic and monetary development of the European Community" and said that she believed solutions would be found that enabled the Community to go forward as twelve.

But she also said: "We would not be prepared to agree to set a date for starting the next stage of economic and monetary union before there is agreement on what that stage should comprise... we would not be prepared to have a single currency imposed upon us, nor to surrender the use of the pound sterling as our currency".

The prime minister said that the hard ecu would be a parallel, not a single, currency, but if as time went by, people and governments chose to use it widely it could evolve towards a single currency.

Then came the passage that some MPs took as a hint of a referendum at some point: "Our national currency would remain unless a decision to abolish it were freely taken by

future generations of Parliament and people. A single currency is not the policy of this government".

Government sources were not ruling out last night the possibility of a referendum at some point, although it was clearly seen as a long shot.

In her statement, in which she pointedly put the subject of European monetary union after those of farm prices and the Gulf confrontation, Mrs Thatcher also reminded MPs that she and foreign secretary, Douglas Hurd, had in Rome reserved Britain's position on the extension of the powers of the European Commission, increased legislative powers for the European parliament, the definition of European citizenship and a common foreign and security policy.

All those, she said, were matters for the inter-governmental conference in December.

After her statement, clearly agreed with ministers in advance, Mrs Thatcher warmed to her themes in response to questions and echoed the rhetoric she had used in interviews from Rome, to the obvious discomfort of some Tory MPs.

But there was equal concern visible on the Labour front bench as a number of Labour MPs rose behind Neil Kinnock to take a vigorously anti-EC line.

Mr Kinnock concentrated on attacking the prime minister for uniting Europe against her and dividing her own party. He criticised what he called her "tantrum tactics", saying that by behaving as she had done in Rome she had thrown away sound arguments on questions relating to the pace and direction of economic and monetary union.

Mrs Thatcher enquired in response if Mr Kinnock would have agreed to extend the powers of the European Commission and insisted that it was France and Germany that had been responsible for breaking European unity on the issue of farm prices, stopping the Community establishing a negotiating position for the Gatt round of world trade talks.

She enquired if Mr Kinnock would have agreed to the Commission extending its powers into health "for the sake of being Little Sir Echo and saying 'me too'".

Leading article, page 13



Thatcher: move would have to be voluntary

ILLEGAL SALES

Cigarette penalties 'should be tougher'

TOUGHER penalties for shop owners who sell cigarettes to children under 16 were proposed yesterday by Parents Against Tobacco (Richard Ford writes).

They want the maximum fine for illegal sales of tobacco to children to be increased fivefold, to £2,000, and a ban on advertisements for tobacco on shopfronts.

The group is promoting a private member's bill that would also place a duty on local authorities to enforce the law prohibiting cigarette sales to the under-16s and restrict tobacco sales from vending machines installed in licensed

premises. The bill would require warnings about the law on cigarette sales to be published on cigarette packets and to be displayed prominently in shops.

Des Wilson, chairman of Parents Against Tobacco, said that almost half of retailers were "cynically and deliberately selling to children under 16".

The organisers said that the proposed bill had the cross-party support of more than 230 MPs, with almost 30 committed to bringing it in if they were placed sufficiently high in the private members' ballot next month.



Youth politics: Delegates from King's College School, Wimbledon, meeting at Westminster yesterday in preparation for their visit to the European Youth Parliament in Lisbon next month

DEFENCE

Low flying must go on, MPs told

By SHEILA GUNN, POLITICAL REPORTER

THE defence ministry yesterday rejected demands to phase out low-flying sorties under 100 feet as long as fighter crews needed to prepare for possible conflict in the Middle East.

The ministry promised to keep low-level training flights to a minimum, but it insisted that a cadre of experienced Tornado, Harrier and Jaguar pilots trained to fly below radar levels must be kept on stand-by. That meant that the training would have to continue.

The Commons defence committee recommended that flights under 100 feet should be phased out over two years because of improved East-

West relations. The committee's report was published before President Saddam Hussein of Iraq ordered the invasion of Kuwait.

In reply to the report, the ministry said: "As has been demonstrated by the situation in the Middle East, with the deployment of RAF aircraft, there is a continuing need for crews to be fully trained and prepared for low-flying operations at short notice".

It added: "While the government recognises that changes in the political and military situation have led to a general reduction in tension in the central region, the situation in the Middle East has demonstrated the continuing requirement for a capability to react to out-of-theatre situations and for a number of crews to be proficient at 100 feet and below".

The ministry also said that military jets stood the best chance of survival behind enemy lines when flying below 100 feet. "The value of such proficiency was underlined in the Falklands war", it added, "when the success of air operations and the low attrition rates were attributable largely to flying at 100 feet or below".

The ministry agreed to improve its public relations with local communities affected by the low flying and to use simulators where possible to replace flights.

Despite complaints by drivers, the ministry denied that pilots target individual cars or public transport for practice dives. In addition, "special account" is taken to avoid low flying over hospitals where operations or delicate procedures take place.

The ministry added: "The government is well seized of the adverse environmental impact of low-flying training and accepts the need to reduce the amount of such training to the minimum in line with changes to the United Kingdom's defence posture and to ensure that it continues to meet the requirement for realistic, effective and safe training with minimum disturbance to the public".

For the Liberal Democrats, Archy Kirkwood said that the ministry's feeble response would fail to convince residents in areas used for low flying that their needs had been considered seriously by the government.

It was right that the Gulf confrontation should be considered, he said, but it was a short-term matter "that must not be used by the government as a determinant of long-term policy".

House of Commons defence committee 5th special report: Government Reply to Defence Committee Report (Stationery Office, £3.10).

Gulf news, page 10

TORY GROUP

Right tries to tighten its grip

By NICHOLAS WOOD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE right wing of the Conservative party is plotting to strengthen its grip over the executive of the backbench 1922 committee.

It is lining up challengers to the two remaining moderates among the six officers of the committee of eighteen.

The executive, chaired by Cranley Onslow, Tory MP for Woking, is the backbench voice of the Conservative parliamentary party. Its members are the "men in grey suits" who, in the event of the prime minister's being seen to lose her grip, would have the unenviable duty of trooping into 10 Downing Street and telling her that she had surrendered the confidence of her backbenchers.

More routinely, the group gives confidential briefings to Tim Renton, the government chief whip, and Margaret Thatcher on backbench opinion and the performance of ministers.

Robert Dunn, a former education minister and MP for Dartford, has been chosen by the "92 group" of right-wing Tory MPs to challenge Sir Giles Shaw, MP for Pudsey, for his post as the committee's treasurer.

Sir Giles, aged 59, who held a succession of middle-ranking ministerial jobs between 1979 and 1987, is on the centre-left of the party. He will start as favourite to beat off Mr Dunn's challenge and is likely to attract much support from older MPs.

However, Mr Dunn, aged 44, who was a junior education minister for five years, will have the backing of the "92 group", which theoretically can deliver a block of 80 votes and has proved better organised than the Lollards, its "wet" counterpart, in recent years.

Dame Jill Knight, another right-wing member of the executive, has been chosen by the right to challenge Sir Geoffrey Johnson Smith, MP for Wealden, for his job as one of the two vice-chairmen of the committee.



Dunn: the right's choice for treasurer's job

Peer may prolong dispute

Lord Stanley of Alderley will ask fellow Conservative peers today to defy the government by insisting on the introduction of a national dog registration scheme. If he senses support during the debate in the Lords, he intends to provoke a rare conflict between the Lords and Commons and ask peers to vote again for a register.

A second vote in the Lords for his amendment would leave the government with the choice of accepting the scheme, losing the Environmental Protection bill or prolonging the session while the amendment is argued over.

Pollution bill introduced

A ten-minute-rule bill to provide for non-food goods to be graded and labelled to indicate the effect of their production on pollution of the environment was introduced in the Commons and given an unopposed first reading.

The Labelling (Environmental Effects and Safety) bill was moved by Mr Richard Page, Conservative MP for South West Hertfordshire. It has no chance of becoming law.

Church bill

A bill providing for the disestablishment of the Church of England without its disendowment was presented to the Commons by Michael Latham (Rutland and Melton, C), an Anglican lay reader. He said that his bill, which has no chance of making further progress this session and might be presented again next, provides for the democratic election of a church assembly.

Special PCs

In an effort to recruit more special constables, the Home Office is to launch a publicity campaign early next year. Peter Lloyd, a junior Home Office minister, announced in a Commons written reply.

EC recruits

In an attempt to get more British civil servants working for the EC Commission in Brussels, a unit has been set up in the Cabinet Office. David Mellor, civil service minister, told the Commons.

Parliament today

Commons (2.30): Questions: Trade and industry. Debate on noise abatement. Lords (2.30): Environmental Protection bill. Commons amendments.

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APPROVED
MORTGAGE

Peking leader to be received at high level on UK visit

By Andrew McEwen, Diplomatic Editor

WAN LI, the third-ranking member of the Chinese leadership, is to be received at a much higher level than originally expected when he visits Britain next month. Whitehall sources say he will probably see both Margaret Thatcher and Douglas Hurd, the Foreign Secretary.

Mr Wan will be the first senior Chinese visitor to any Western country since the Tiananmen Square massacre in June 1989. He is chairman of the National People's Congress, the Chinese legislature. His visit to Britain was announced a week ago but it was assumed it would be at a relatively low level intended only to break the diplomatic ice.

Mr Wan has been invited to Britain by the United Kingdom branch of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, which has often helped to build bridges with countries whose

relations with Britain are strained. He is expected to arrive on November 19.

The Chinese team, much larger than expected — including up to 12 officials and seven or eight members of the people's congress — has picked its requests for meetings at an ambitious level. The government is believed to have drawn the line at a meeting with the Queen, which would be appropriate only if relations were on a firmer footing.

If the decision to receive Mr Wan at Downing Street is confirmed, it will be seen as an effort by Britain to restore China's image in the West and to set aside the anger left by the suppression of students last year.

While this is certain to please Peking and may help Britain in negotiations over Hong Kong, it is unlikely to be

welcomed by Chinese pro-democracy groups who have found shelter in the West.

But some of those involved in the visit see parallels with Mikhail Gorbachev's visit to Britain in 1984 before he was appointed general secretary of the Communist party. He was also invited under Inter-Parliamentary Union auspices, but both governments were closely involved. Mrs Thatcher used his visit to say that he was a man with whom she could do business. Her remark helped build a relationship after his appointment and probably helped him to gain wider acceptance in the West.

The government seems unsure whether to view Mr Wan as a potential reformer. He is known to be in favour of economic reform and is thought likely to favour political reform. But if he indeed holds such views it would probably be impossible for him to express them, even privately.

Britain was the first European Community country to send a minister to Peking, but had to obtain a special exemption from an EC ban on high-level visits. To do so it argued that it had special problems because of Hong Kong's transition to Chinese rule in 1997.

Francis Maude, then minister of state at the Foreign Office, made it clear during his visit that he wanted to restore normal links. Later Britain asked its EC partners to drop sanctions against China, and steps towards doing so were taken at a foreign ministers meeting a week ago.

Ministers have been worried for months about the disruption the sanctions caused to negotiations with China over Hong Kong. Although the two countries settled the main issues in 1984 in the Sino-British Joint Declaration, hundreds of matters of detail were left to be resolved by negotiating teams.

Britain's motive is not thought to be confined to the Hong Kong issue, however. With the United States and France, the United Kingdom is concerned that there should be no Chinese veto in the event of a move in the United Nations Security Council to take military action against Iraq. While neither Moscow nor Peking would be persuaded easily to support such a motion, the West wants to keep open the possibility.

Another reason for Britain's move is that China and Asia as a whole are regarded as the most promising parts of the world for British trade in the 21st century.

China's planners hail census result

From Agence France-Presse in Peking

CHINA'S fourth national census has established that the world's most populous nation has 1,133,682,501 people. The figure, based on the census which ended on July 1 and published by the State Statistical Bureau yesterday, excludes Hong Kong, Macao and the Nationalist-held island of Taiwan.

In a summary compiled by the New China News Agency, the statistical bureau said that in the 12 months preceding the end of the census births exceeded deaths by more than three to one.

At the end of last year China's population was officially estimated at 1.1 billion people, of whom 28.6 per cent lived in urban areas. The fourth national census since the Communist Party took power in 1949 was described as China's biggest social mobilisation in peacetime, involving seven million enumerators. Western experts believe its margin of error is in the tens of millions.

Results of the census are expected to be used to review China's social policies, including its rigid birth-control policy, which limits urban families to one child.

The 1990 census revealed that the average Chinese family has 3.96 members, that males outnumber females, accounting for 51.6 per cent of the total population, and that some 91.96 per cent of the

population are Han Chinese. The remaining 8.04 per cent of the population are officially designated as national minorities and include Muslims and Tibetans. The total number of ethnic minority group members has grown 35.52 per cent since the last census in 1982. The Han Chinese population rose 10.8 per cent.

Annual population growth rate since 1982 has been 14.8 per thousand. In the 12 months up to last July 1, 23,543,188 babies were born in China and 7,043,470 people died.

The census was described as a success by *People's Daily*, the Communist Party newspaper, in an editorial read prior to publication on state television yesterday. It described the results as proof that China's birth-control policy was working, but added that care needed to be taken to meet the government population target of no more than 1.25 billion Chinese by the year 2000.

Under that population-control policy, which was introduced in 1980, urban couples may have only one child. A 1988 amendment allows rural parents to have a second child if their first is a girl. Before the 1988 change the policy had been widely flouted by peasants who were often willing to pay fines in order to enjoy the traditional Chinese ideal of a big family.

Pakistan intrigue grows as three vie for top post

From Zahid Hussain in Islamabad

A NEW political struggle has emerged in Pakistan as three leaders vie for the post of prime minister. The favourite is Nawaz Sharif, whose Islamic Democratic Alliance defeated Benazir Bhutto's Pakistan People's Party in the parliamentary polls, but his bid is being challenged by Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi, the acting prime minister, and Mohammed Khan Junejo, who was prime minister during General Zia's rule.

The struggle has intensified with the completion of the election process after Sunday's polls for local assemblies, which again saw a reversal of fortunes for Miss Bhutto.

As the national assembly prepares to elect a prime minister in the first week of November, Islamabad has become a centre of intrigue.

Mr Sharif, aged 41, who is also chief minister of Punjab, appeared to have strengthened his claim after his alliance of eight parties routed Miss Bhutto's party in Punjab, the country's largest province.

"Is it not time that a prime minister should be elected from the Punjab?" a member

of the alliance asked. There has not been a Punjab prime minister since 1958, and four successive prime ministers hailed from Sind province.

But among the elected national assembly members, there is a strong faction that favours retaining Mr Jatoi as the prime minister, mainly because he hails from Sind, Pakistan's most turbulent province. Mr Jatoi strengthened his bid by winning a significant number of seats in both parliamentary and local elections in Sind, which is also



Sharif believes it is time for a Punjab to lead

Miss Bhutto's province. He is regarded as a man of consensus and is favoured by sections of the army and civilian establishments.

Mr Junejo, who was sacked by General Zia in 1988, is the least popular candidate because he is not liked by the army. But as president of the Muslim League he commands a pocket of support.

The outcome will, however, depend on who wins the support of the all-powerful generals. According to reliable sources, the generals at their last meeting on October 11 had decided to back Mr Sharif. But after Mr Jatoi's electoral success, he may still emerge as the military's favourite candidate.

Meanwhile, the alliance's sweeping victory continued to remain controversial, as a French human rights observer team claimed that there was sophisticated fraud in the elections, backing allegations by Miss Bhutto that the polls were rigged. But the US state department said that, despite "some irregularities", it had found no reason to question the results.

Mandela hits out at Tokyo

From Joe Joseph in Tokyo

STUNG by Japan's refusal to write a large cheque to the African National Congress, Nelson Mandela yesterday accused Tokyo of indifference to the plight of black South Africans and said the Japanese were not yet ready to join the fight against racism.

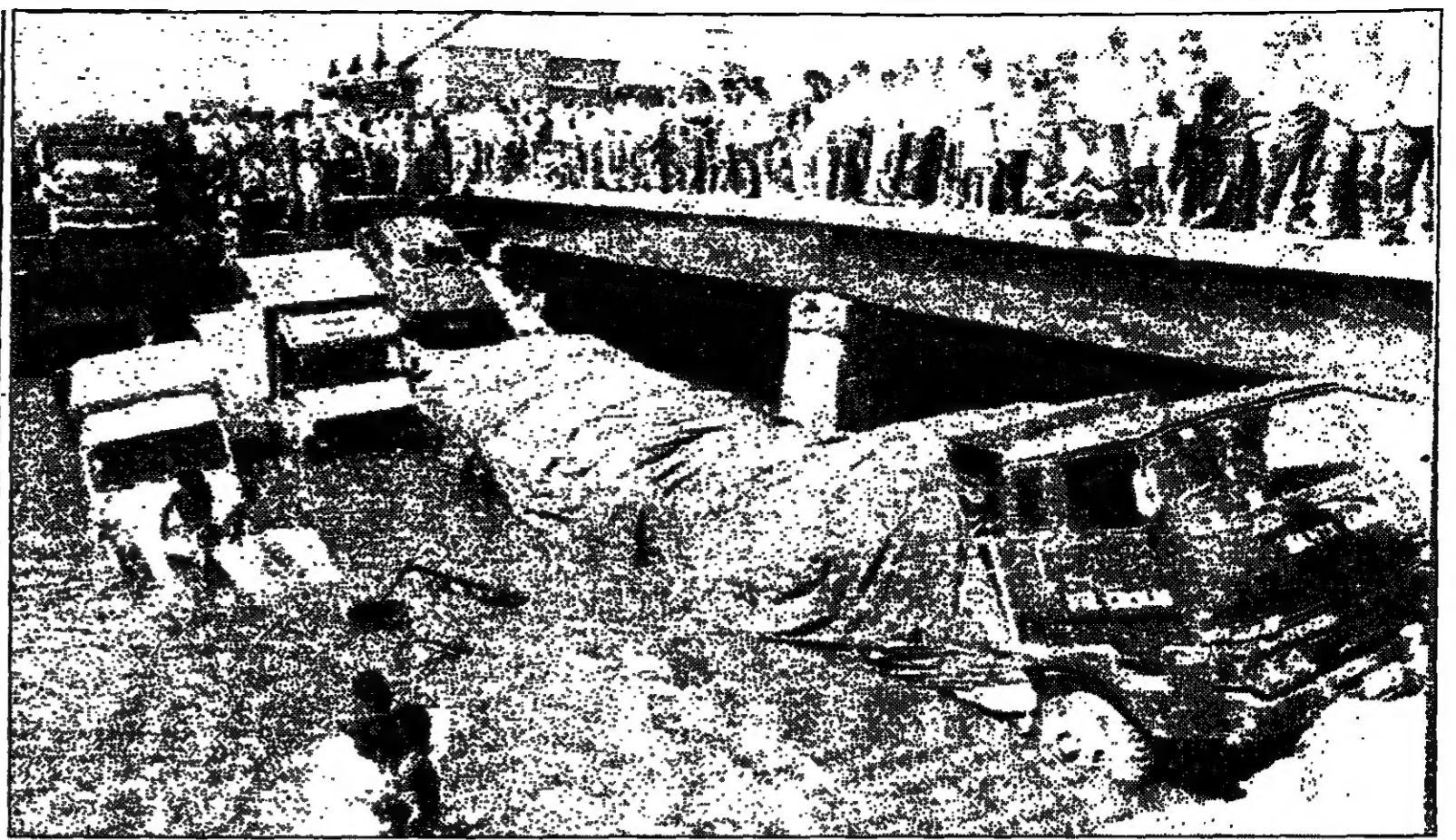
The anti-apartheid leader, who earlier received a standing ovation in Japan's parliament, said that "Japan's contribution to the cause of the situation of my people has been absolutely insignificant". He said that the survival in the Japanese cabinet of Seiichi Kajiyama, the justice minister who caused a storm by suggesting that American neighbourhoods go to the dogs once blacks move in and drive out whites, showed just how lukewarm Japan remained about fighting racism.

Mr Mandela was clearly frustrated that he will be leaving the richest staging post on his Asia-Pacific fundraising tour empty-handed. Toshiki Kaifu, Japan's prime minister, went

out of his way to welcome Mr Mandela and tried to repair an image that Japan always puts profit before principle in its dealings with Pretoria. But he turned down Mr Mandela's request for \$25 million (£12.5 million) for the ANC. He said Japan did not give aid to political groups.

Mr Mandela, who picked up \$6.5 million from India, \$10 million from Indonesia and \$15 million from Australia, told Mr Kaifu he was disappointed with Japan's response. The United States had given \$51 million to improve black living standards and Britain £35 million, but Japan had given only \$1.8 million.

Meanwhile, R.F. "Pik" Botha, the South African foreign minister, said yesterday that prospects for the country's black majority would be damaged if European countries delayed the lifting of sanctions (Reuters reports from Pretoria). Leo Tindemans, the former Belgian prime minister, said earlier in Pretoria he expected the December EC summit to review sanctions.



Dead end: bystanders surveying the wreckage of a bridge in the Philippines which collapsed under traffic in a Manila suburb yesterday. At least two people were killed in the collapse, while about thirty swam to safety. The bridge had apparently been weakened by an earthquake

Editor sacked over Indian mosque dispute

By COOMI KAPOOR IN DELHI AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

THE editor of the *Indian Express* has been sacked in a move apparently linked to growing Hindu-Muslim tensions. The paper's management refused to publish an article Arun Shourie wrote linking V.P. Singh, the prime minister, to militant Hindu organisations and their plan to build a temple on land occupied by a mosque.

Mr Shourie, aged 49, who turned the *Express* into a leading media crusader, said he was not given any reason for his sudden dismissal on Monday. "I was just given a letter at lunch saying 'go', and I went." He has won numerous international awards, including the Philippines' Magsaysay

prize for journalism in 1982, and edited the paper from 1979 to 1982 and from January 1987 until his dismissal.

His article was published yesterday in the *National Herald*, a newspaper supporting the opposition Congress (I) party. It alleged that Mr Singh had once supported the militant Hindu plan to demolish a mosque in the northern town of Ayodhya and start building a temple. It claimed that Mr Singh met militant leaders just before the elections which brought him to power last November and said he backed their building plans.

Mr Shourie last week received a letter from Ram Nath Goenka, the ailing octogenarian press baron, stating that he felt it was in the best

interests of his newspaper chain that Mr Shourie and he part company.

Mr Shourie, who was in Delhi, rushed to Bombay to reason with Mr Goenka. According to Mr Shourie, Mr Goenka was satisfied after their conversation and he assumed his dismissal was withdrawn. However, on Monday the proprietor's grandson, Manoj Santhalia and Vivek Khatri, had informed Mr Shourie he should resign.

"To me, my sacking is incomprehensible," Mr Shourie said. He has yet formally to hand over his job to his probable successor, N. S. Jagannathan, the acting editor.

Mr Singh and Mr Shourie fell out two months ago over the prime minister's insistence on a government job

reservation scheme for the lower castes. The *Express* launched a campaign charging that the move was against meritocracy and equality.

Mr Singh is insisting the row that has flared over the mosque plan be settled by the courts. The issue has put his government in jeopardy.

Thousands of Hindu militants attempted to carry out their vow to build the temple yesterday and at least one person was killed as they tried to break through a massive security cordon around the 16th-century mosque. Leaders of India's 100-million-strong Muslim minority have vowed to protect the mosque at any cost.

Leading article, page 13

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Saddam tells army to be ready for war in next few days

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

PRESIDENT Saddam Hussein yesterday told his generals to be on high alert for hostilities in the Gulf during the next few days. He ordered a review of preparations for street fighting in Kuwait, according to the official Iraqi news agency.

The warning from the Iraqi leader, presumably made public for propaganda purposes, followed the statement by James Baker, the US Secretary of State, that time was running out for a peaceful solution.

American marines yesterday began a 10-day amphibious exercise in the second big test this month of the beach-landing skills which would be needed for a seaborne assault in Kuwait. Codenamed "Sea Soldier Two", the operation involved elements of the 4th Marine Expeditionary Brigade and Amphibious Task Group Two. Some 18 US Navy ships, 20 aircraft and 75 helicopters took part.

Talk in Baghdad of imminent war also followed the

apparent failure of the latest Soviet diplomatic initiative. Yevgeni Primakov, Moscow's envoy, returned home yesterday after talks with President Saddam and with King Fahd of Saudi Arabia.

The military threat to the two sides in the Gulf confrontation is beginning to sink in. Even General Norman Schwarzkopf, commander-in-chief of the American forces in the Gulf, has adopted a different style of rhetoric, warning of a long conflict leading to the death "of an awful lot of people".

The image of hand-to-hand street fighting and the dismissal of a quick military solution contrast starkly with previous predictions by senior American officials, whose optimism was based on the premise that allied air superiority would deal such a devastating blow to Iraqi forces in the first few hours of battle that the conflict could be ended relatively quickly.

The truth is that Iraqi armoured divisions in Kuwait

are now so well dug in that neither bombing raids from the air nor a land-sea offensive could be guaranteed to dislodge them without enormous loss of life.

With fear growing that diplomacy and sanctions, however successfully applied over the next few months, are unlikely to bring President Saddam to his knees, the military option seems unavoidable. But there are too many unknowns for the Pentagon to present President Bush with a watertight plan. On the question of casualties, even the most optimistic assessments in Washington put the figure at 30,000, of which 3,000 would be deaths.

American commanders in the Gulf are adamant that the only way to restore Kuwait to its people and to end President Saddam's threat to the region is for a war to be "total". One commander, who took part in dozens of bombing raids during the Vietnam war, said: "I believe we have to use all the capabilities that we've got. We mustn't hold back. Saddam Hussein must realise that we won't fight a piecemeal war as we did in Vietnam."

The commander's reference to Vietnam was double-edged. For although the American campaign in Southeast Asia failed through lack of will and public commitment, in 1972 President Nixon sanctioned mass bombing raids on Hanoi. On December 13, 90 B52 bombers passed over the city. The raids continued every night for two weeks, except on Christmas Eve. "I believe if we did the same thing over Baghdad there would be panic among the populace," the commander said.

But would President Bush be able to sanction such a mission? He would never win support from the permanent members of the security council, apart from Britain. Nor would he gain approval from Congress because of the presence of so many Americans and other foreign hostages in Baghdad. Indiscriminate bombing would also lose America most of the friends cultivated since Iraq's invasion of Kuwait on August 2.

Precision bombing of Iraqi air bases, industrial-military complexes, chemical plants, nuclear facilities, command bunkers and arms factories would be a more acceptable operation. But how successful would such raids be?

Iraqi air bases are well defended. Since 1985 Iraq has constructed an integrated early-warning radar network which can track hostile aircraft penetrating Iraqi airspace from any direction. Point defence is covered by a huge array of fixed Soviet missiles (SA2, SA3) and mobile launchers (SA6, SA8, SA13). Iraq also has French-built Roland launch systems with thousands of missiles around Baghdad and at strategic installations.

Primakov fits new diplomatic mould

From CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN CAIRO

YEVGENI Primakov, the former academic, radio commentator and newspaper correspondent spearheading the Kremlin's Gulf peace mission, is regarded in diplomatic circles as a classic example of the new style of Soviet diplomat now being deployed by President Gorbachev.

A European diplomat familiar with Mr Primakov's long career said: "He is very much a man whose past has fitted him to play the important role he is now performing. But whether his frequently stated optimism is a clever negotiating tactic or based on substance, it is still too early to tell."

Born in Kiev in 1929, Mr Primakov, a widower and a grandfather, spent long years in the realms of Soviet academia before emerging soon after Mr Gorbachev's accession to power in 1985 as one of the more relaxed new breed of Soviet public figures.

His deep knowledge of the Arab world was gained during the period in the 1960s when he was Middle East correspondent for *Pravda*, which he joined in 1962, first as its commentator on Asian and then on African affairs.

Mr Primakov first emerged on the world stage in 1986 when he was appointed one of the "group of experts" charged with handling President Gorbachev's public relations during his high-profile trips abroad.

At the time, the eye of Western governments was not focused so much on Middle East affairs, but those Westerners who questioned

Mr Primakov were impressed by his knowledge of the area and its problems.

The Soviet envoy, appointed as a member of Mr Gorbachev's inner presidential council this spring, was educated at Moscow university at the same time as the Soviet leader and it is widely rumoured that they first met then. From 1970-77, he was deputy director of Moscow's Institute of International Affairs and World Economy, which has proved the breeding ground for many of the newer, more flexible Soviet foreign policy experts.

Mr Primakov joined the Communist Party at the age of 30 and did not become a full member of its ruling Central Committee until 1989. In the same year, he was appointed a junior member of the Politburo, but his main arena was the Soviet parliament. He was elected on a list put forward by the party outside the popular system. He became president of the foreign affairs commission of both chambers, but resigned when elevated to the presidential council. His mentor is seen as the main ideologist of perestroika, Aleksandr Yakovlev.

Western diplomats in Moscow have mentioned Mr Primakov as a possible successor to Eduard Shevardnadze, the Soviet foreign minister, although there is nothing at present to indicate that the affable Georgian has lost Mr Gorbachev's confidence.

What is more certain is that, if war in the Gulf is averted, Mr Primakov will be entitled to share much of the credit.



Happy returns: Wendy Major, centre, of Southampton, reunited with her family at Heathrow airport yesterday after her homecoming from Baghdad. She was met by, from left, Tracy, Karen, her mother Brenda, and Tina

France set to move its troops

Riyadh — French troops will complete a move to new positions in northeast Saudi Arabia this week, pulling back from the front line with Iraqi soldiers, military sources said.

They said Saudi Arabia had asked the French to withdraw 13 miles to leave Arab forces, believed to be Syrian, facing the Iraqis. They said light armoured and infantry units were withdrawing.

France has 3,500 soldiers, with 48 AMX-10 light tanks and 48 Gazelle anti-tank helicopters, in Saudi Arabia, mostly in the desolate region of Hafr al-Baten. (Reuters)

Oslo mission

Oslo — A Norwegian delegation, including a former prime minister, Lars Korvald, plans to visit Iraq to urge President Saddam to free 11 Norwegians held hostage, the national news agency NTB said. A foreign ministry spokesman said that the delegation was not supported by the government. (Reuters)

Hot chocolate

Geneva — US troops in the Gulf have been sent Swiss chocolate that does not melt in the heat. Claude Giddey of the US-based Battelle Research Centre, its inventor, said that the new type of chocolate could resist temperatures of up to 50°C to 60°C (122°F to 140°F). (Reuters)

Medical airlift

Zurich — Switzerland will allow an Iraqi airliner to land in Geneva and pick up medical supplies for delivery to Baghdad but is not making a deal for the release of Swiss held in Iraq, the foreign ministry said. A spokesman said the shipment did not break the air embargo imposed by the United Nations on Iraq. (Reuters)

Visit denied

Calcutta — Mother Teresa, the 1979 Nobel Peace Prize winner, said yesterday that she had no plans to visit Iraq on a Gulf peace mission. An official of a London-based charity group had said Mother Teresa had written to President Saddam and King Hussein of Jordan, trying to help in the conflict. (Reuters)

Smuggled diesel

Hong Kong — In what could be Hong Kong's first profiteering case since the Gulf confrontation, customs officers arrested two salesmen offering cut-price diesel fuel smuggled in from China. (Reuters)

West has yet to gain the initiative over Baghdad

By ANDREW MCEWEN, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

ALMOST three months after the invasion of Kuwait, President Saddam Hussein's strategy for retaining the emirate shows little sign of cracking under world diplomatic pressure.

It has been clear since the middle of August that Baghdad's diplomacy was based on playing for time and allowing Western public opinion to lose its appetite for war. The taking of hostages, which at first seemed an own goal, turned out to be part of that policy.

When Iraqi troops in Kuwait began rounding up Americans and Britons on August 13, there was surprise that President Saddam should choose to exacerbate anger in the West. After the US and British success in isolating Iraq in the United Nations and obtaining the trade embargo, a conciliatory move might have seemed logical.

It soon became evident that President Saddam had decided this was a risk worth taking. He knew there was no danger of an immediate Western attack because its forces would not be in place for several months. Indeed for the first six weeks the US was forced to engage in a military bluff, pretending it was deploying forces faster than was the case.

President Saddam probably calculated that, by the time the West assembled sufficient strength to launch an attack, public anger over the hostages would have been replaced by concern for their safety and that three to six months would be long enough for a peace lobby to develop. It has been

easier to guess how he planned to proceed than to prevent him from succeeding.

Washington, and to a lesser extent London, have been disturbed by signs that support for President Bush's and Mrs Thatcher's uncompromising policy is now slipping.

A headline on a national newspaper's front page yesterday "Iraq considers release of all foreign hostages" must have fed the fears. It reported that Baghdad might free them if the Soviet Union and France committed themselves publicly to resolve the situation peacefully.

Whether the report proves correct or not is unimportant: either way it would be seen as part of Baghdad's strategy of sowing divisions. Its prominence seemed to show that the hostages had indeed become an asset. The steady trickle of Westerners leaving Baghdad has created an impression that President Saddam may not be entirely heartless. The fact that others have continued to be rounded up in Kuwait, taking the places of those departing at strategic sites, has received little attention.

If President Saddam believes that releasing all the hostages would undermine support for a Western military attack, he could be right. The opposition of a third of the Democrats in the US Congress to the use of force reinforced that impression.

There was no surprise yesterday when Tariq Aziz, the Iraqi foreign minister, said that Baghdad was ready for

Libya expels splinter group of PLO

From PENNY GIBBINS IN TUNIS

A PLO splinter group, the Palestine Liberation Front, led by Abu Abbas, was given 12 hours on Monday to leave Libya, according to diplomatic sources in Tunis yesterday.

The PLF, which was responsible for the 1985 hijacking of the Achille Lauro, the Italian cruise ship, during which an American tourist was murdered, was told it could no longer operate out of Libya. Its offices and training camps were closed and the entire staff, said to number several dozen people, left Libya for an undisclosed destination, sources said.

The expulsions are believed to be the result of a request by the PLO leadership to Muammar Gaddafi, the Libyan leader. The PLO has good relations with Libya and has been frequently embarrassed at having Mr Abu Abbas within its ranks. He has been in disgrace since he cost the PLO its dialogue with the United States after mounting an unauthorised commando raid on an Israeli beach in May. It was allegedly orchestrated from the PLF's Libya base, although this was denied by Colonel Gaddafi.

At the time an aggrieved PLO, which since 1988 has pledged itself to peaceful negotiations, said it knew nothing of the planned raid. Although it says Mr Abu Abbas is under investigation, it did not expel or punish him and, as a result, America suspended its dialogue with the PLO.

Relations between it and America have grown steadily worse since then, with the PLO accusing the United States of preventing the United Nations from acting to protect Palestinians in Israel's occupied territories.

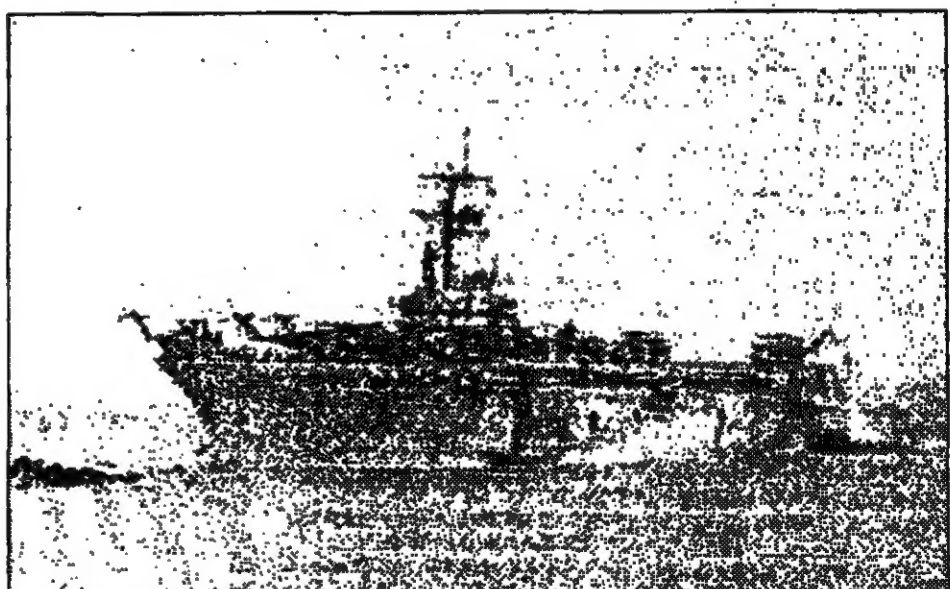
The expulsions may be a sign that the PLO is smoothing the way for better relations with Washington. It has been distancing itself from or curbing other Palestinian groups, notably that of Abu Nidal, whose members were forced by the PLO out of camps in Lebanon and accused of damaging Palestinian interests by taking Western hostages.

Colonel Gaddafi himself is believed to have given the PLF expulsion order, a sign that he too is continuing a policy of distancing himself from terror groups.

Western observers say the PLF may now go to bases in south Lebanon or more likely, to Baghdad. Both Mr Abu Abbas and Mr Abu Nidal have been threatening to attack American interests because of the Western military presence in the Gulf, and the PLO leadership in Tunis has said it will try to prevent such acts from taking place.

Meanwhile, a fresh outbreak of violence in Israel and the occupied territories yesterday threatened to undermine the uneasy calm since last week's spate of racially motivated attacks, and increased pressure on the government to restrict the numbers of Palestinians working in Israel (Paul Adams writes from Jerusalem).

According to Israeli police, an Arab was killed and two others wounded when an explosive device they were preparing at a shop in Bnei Brak, an extreme-orthodox suburb of Tel Aviv, went off prematurely. In Nablus on the West Bank, a Palestinian was shot dead by security forces after he stabbed the guard of an Israeli petrol tanker delivering fuel to a power station. The army placed Nablus and the surrounding refugee camps under curfew.



Sea rescue: tugs towing the USS Iowa into port in Bahrain after an accident which killed eight sailors. Two others were injured yesterday when a steam pipe ruptured in the amphibious assault ship. In another accident, a marine died and three were injured when their vehicle overturned in the Saudi desert.

Escaped couple tell of invaders' brutalities

By ALICE THOMSON

HUNDREDS of Westerners are still hiding in squalid conditions in Kuwait terrified of Iraqi snatch squads trying to wrinkle them out. Anyone in Kuwait found harbouring a Westerner risks execution and those discovered often simply disappear.

Anne and Nabil Akel count themselves lucky: after two months of death threats and house searches they have got out. But their closest friends remain in hiding in Kuwait.

Despite the trauma Anne Akel looks more like an immaculate Knightsbridge shopper than a refugee. Yet only a week ago she was running the gauntlet of Iraqi tanks. Now she appears remarkably calm, though her husband is still agonised.

As a Lebanese national, Nabil Akel was relatively safe, but his wife and two daughters still retain British citizenship. "I should have left with the other British women and children but I was determined not to leave my husband and friends," she said.

They lived in the small oil

town of Ahmadi where her husband worked as an engineer for a Kuwaiti oil company. Ahmadi was probably even more dangerous than Kuwait City because, as Mr Akel explained, he had seen the Iraqis rig the oil installations with explosives.

After a stifling week in hiding, Mrs Akel managed to walk about freely using false Lebanese identity documents given to her by the Kuwaiti resistance. It enabled her to search for food but it also meant she was witness to some gruesome sights. In her second week she and her two children were splattered with blood while they watched two young boys being shot for waving a Kuwaiti flag.

"The city has been desecrated. You can laugh when you can't buy a hairbrush, but what do you do when a box of chicken legs costs £500 and there is no bread? You don't understand the word 'nothing' until you see Kuwait — there's not a nut, not a bolt left. Rubbish is piling up and sewage trickling out of the houses is

combined with blood; it's disgusting," she said.

Within two days of the invasion, Mr Akel had been seconded to an emergency force to keep water, heating and electricity working on a 16-hour night shift for which he was not paid.

Mr Akel, who was part of a team of 30 engineers, slowly saw his friends disappear. "They took the chief consultant out in front of me and shot him because he wouldn't hang a picture of Saddam Hussein. Another Kuwaiti friend, found carrying 150 Kuwaiti dinars, was sprayed with bullets."

During the first few weeks, Mrs Akel spent her time consoling friends whose relatives had been killed after the invasion. "We had to leave their children's bodies in rubbish bags to give them a decent burial. A lot of Kuwaitis didn't know the fate of their loved ones," she said.

A Kuwaiti resistance fighter asked Mr Akel to search for the body of his only nephew who had disappeared. Mr

Akel had heard that Iraqis had been stacking bodies inside Kuwait City's skating rink. "I had to pretend I was Palestinian to creep in, but the stench was so appalling that I couldn't force myself through the door. Bodies were spewed all over the rink on the grey and mushy snow. There was a truck outside waiting to shovel the bodies up. I couldn't believe that this was once a place I'd taken my kids to at the weekends," he said.

"The Kuwaitis were being persecuted, but their resistance movement was risking everything for the British who were in hiding. It was terrifying visiting Westerners' hide-outs and it was getting harder to find them food."

Then two weeks ago the family began to be harassed. Mr Akel was repeatedly questioned about his wife's nationality and told that, if they had proof his wife was British, they would execute him.

Mrs Akel was sitting at home with the maid when nine officers with machine-guns marched in, and ordered

her to accompany them to headquarters. "I've got high blood pressure and my head was pounding. My husband kept dropping his cigarettes, only that children remained calm. The brigadier threatened to rape me and the children if they found out I was British," she said. "I couldn't believe it when they finally let us go."

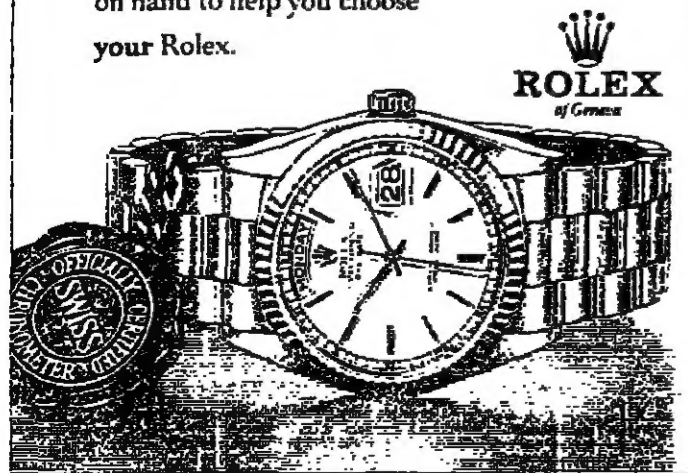
That night they fled. But the roads were confusing as Iraqi forces had remained all the streets, Freedom, Jerusalem and Hussein. The only signs pointed to Baghdad 707km (441 miles) away and Mr Akel secretly believed they would never make it. But with his Lebanese passport he managed to talk and bribe his way through checkpoints.

"We arrived in Baghdad and made straight for the British embassy, but there was a demonstration so we drove round and round for three hours before we dared to approach," Mrs Akel said. "The embassy was fantastic, we were flown out the next day."

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عائلة من الذهب

Voters run for cover as dirt flies in Texas campaign

From MARTIN FLETCHER
in HOUSTON

IN THE Texas border country Ann Richards, Democratic candidate for governor, runs a commercial in Spanish mocking her opponent's claim to respect Hispanic women. "Liar!" it says. "The Republican candidate for governor has told us he travelled to Mexico to be 'serviced' by women. How is this for respect?"

Clayton Williams, the Republican, runs nudge-and-wink advertisements depicting Mrs Richards as an extreme liberal feminist with a rabid lesbian following. He has resurrected the alcoholism she conquered 10 years ago. Allegations that she used cocaine in a Dallas bar in 1977 have resurfaced.

Such is the tone of the most expensive, and one of the ugliest, gubernatorial races in US history. It has been a contest waged through what one Texas paper called "thirty-second lies and half truths", through muck-raking, whispering campaigns and vicious personal attacks. The candidates and their opponents in the primaries have spent more than \$45 million (£23 million) assaulting each other while largely ignoring such pressing issues as the state's looming \$3 billion deficit.

Politics in the Lone Star state have always been a blood sport, but this year's campaign has sickened even Texans. Both candidates have negative ratings of around 60 per cent. Car bumper stickers read: "Does Texas Really Need a Governor Anyway?" The standard joke, told with bitterness not humour, has the two candidates on a sinking raft. Who'll be saved? The people of Texas.

Support for Mrs Richards has never risen above the mid-30s but she suddenly has an even chance of winning because figures for Mr Williams have plummeted to her level: disillusioned voters are not changing allegiance, just giving up.

Mr Williams cannot stop the rot because he has already bought so much

advertising that voters long ago reached saturation point. Republicans in Washington are horrified. Texas is to gain three or four new US congressmen due to population growth. The governor's veto is vital to prevent gerrymandering by the Democratic state legislature when it redraws the congressional districts.

Mr Williams, a small, jag-eared multi-millionaire rancher, oilman and entrepreneur, should have had the race sewn up. A political novice, he lassoed the Texas cowboy myth and rode it to an overwhelming victory in the Republican primary last March, using \$6 million of his own money to build his "Marlboro Man" image.

By contrast Mrs Richards, the steady, snow-haired state treasurer and star turn at the 1988 Democratic convention, came to the contest short of funds, with a divided camp, and badly bloodied by a primary dominated by allegations that she had used illegal drugs. Mr Williams promised to "head

and hoof her and drag her through the dirt", but instead the cowboy image has exploded in his face. He likened rape to bad weather - "sit back, relax and enjoy it". It was alleged that he had held "honey buns" for prostitutes hidden around his ranch. He admitted he was "serviced" in Mexican brothels in his youth. Voters suddenly remembered the reality behind the Texas myth: women treated like cattle, Mexican Americans treated as dirt, and crude, brutal cowboys.

It has emerged that Mr Williams, the self-styled son of the earth, had pumped dry a west Texas beauty spot, Comanche Springs, to irrigate his 12,000-acre alfalfa farm, crippling downstream farmers. Mrs Richards employed investigators to dig up dirt about business dealings of Mr Williams and runs commercials portraying him as a sleazy wheeler-dealer whose bank cheated the poor. She has been rewarded with an official investigation.

Mr Williams and Mrs Richards had a

rare public encounter at a Dallas luncheon on October 11. Mr Williams strode up to Mrs Richards, called her a liar and refused to shake her hand. It was a bad mistake, "not what John Wayne would have done," said one pollster. That gaffe coincided with the Republican party's budget-battering in Washington, and Mr Williams's consistent 10-15 point polls lead evaporated.

In the last days before next Tuesday's election, Williams aides have become his "handlers", fending off the press, and he is pumping in another \$2.4 million of his own money to try, as one aide said, "to teach the people to love Claytie again". This weekend Mr Williams has President Bush coming to make a third campaign appearance to try to shore up Republican support, but even in Texas, Mr Bush's adopted state, his diminished popularity could make him more of a liability than a help.

Mr Williams appears to have stopped airing a commercial which cast aspersions on Mrs Richards's patriotism by

showing the clip from her democratic convention speech in which she mocked "poor George... born with a silver foot in his mouth".

Mrs Richards is going all out for the votes of blacks, Hispanics and Republican women with a distaste for macho cowboys.

Few will vote enthusiastically. Most, says Brad Coker, president of Mason Dixon Pollsters, will "hold their noses as they pull the lever".

Mrs Richards, an experienced politician, apparently knew what to expect. She told her children before the campaign: "You are not going to recognise your mother by the time they get through with me."

However, Mr Williams, who thought at the outset that being governor was a part-time job, had little idea what he was letting himself in for. He conceded this week that he and his wife "some Sunday mornings wake up and look at each other and say: 'Lord, what have we done to our lives?'"

After the scandal, which was linked to the death of Roberto Calvi, the banker, in 1982, and the disappearance of \$1.2 billion (£630 million), the IOR, the Vatican's bank, was reorganised. Monsignor Marcinkus lost all effective power and was given a relatively minor job in the Holy See's administration.

He will return to his native Chicago, which he left in 1969 to become one of the most powerful personalities in the Vatican hierarchy. He will be given a parish and it seems unlikely that he will ever become a cardinal. In an interview he complained: "I've no doubt I'll be remembered as the villain in the Calvi affair."

Monsignor Marcinkus, aged 68, became head of the IOR in 1971. Italian magistrates investigating the collapse of Banco Ambrosiano in 1987 issued a warrant for his arrest. But Italy's constitutional court cancelled the warrant because of the Vatican's sovereign status.

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Monsignor Marcinkus has always said that his only mistake had been putting too much trust in Calvi's skill and integrity.

Italy believes Britain must fall in line or quit EC

From PETER GUILFORD in BRUSSELS

GERMAN scepticism was Mrs Thatcher's last key European ally in her fight to delay the advent of a single European currency, but that ally has now fallen away, says Gianni De Michelis, the Italian foreign minister. She must either fall into line or pull out of the European Community.

"No more Pöhl, no more Waigel. Chancellor Kohl has spoken and this is the official position," Signor De Michelis said in an upbeat interview yesterday with *The Wall Street Journal*.

Britain had drawn false hopes from the scepticism of Karl Otto Pöhl, the president of the Bundesbank, and Theo Waigel, Germany's finance minister. Both appeared to share its doubts about entering stage two of economic and monetary union before deciding exactly what that stage would set out to achieve.

Signor De Michelis is now

confident that Herr Kohl alone speaks for Germany, although he agrees that the fiercely independent Bundesbank cannot be relied on to toe the chancellor's line in the future. Herr Kohl unexpectedly endorsed January 1, 1994, as the starting date for stage two - itself an attempt to steer between the cautious Bundesbank and his more enthusiastic foreign minister, Hans-Dietrich Genscher.

This clearly stiffened the nerve of the Italians in time for last weekend's Rome summit, where Mrs Thatcher's 11 EC colleagues cornered her and agreed to press ahead on EMU without her.

In a characteristically provocative manner, Signor De Michelis said Mrs Thatcher had left herself just two choices: "To accept a compromise or to go out (of the community). I cannot believe that Britain, if it does a simple cost-benefit analysis, would leave." He admitted he was a "visionary" (he has attracted widespread criticism for not filling out his vision with sufficient analysis), but said he was convinced that Mrs Thatcher would join her colleagues in a unanimous vote on a new treaty for EMU some time next year.

"October 28, 1990, will be remembered as an historical day of European integration," the ebullient minister said.

Clearly riding a new wave of confidence in his much-criticised presidency of the community (most of the criticism came from the British press), Signor De Michelis is offering no consolation to Mrs Thatcher after her isolation at Rome. But others have already begun extensive repairs on Britain's relations with its EC partners.

One German diplomat said after the summit that Britain stood alone only in its desire to put content before timing, and was not averse to the creation of monetary union, or even a single currency. "Britain wants such a currency to evolve rather than have it imposed," he said.

In similarly conciliatory tone, Mark Eyskens, the Belgian foreign minister, said on BBC's *Newsnight* that John Major's alternative "hard ecu" plan was "not dead"; indeed elements of it could be incorporated into stage two, although he said nobody should be surprised to have seen Britain isolated in Rome.

Leading article, page 13

Aid for Moscow 'limited'

From PETER GUILFORD in BRUSSELS

THE European Community is cautiously in favour of President Gorbachev's economic reform package for the Soviet Union, believing it to be a realistic approach compared to other more radical reform programmes, officials said yesterday. But, they added, economic collapse and the growing restlessness of the Soviet republics made it impossible for the community to offer wider support.

So far Brussels is prepared to offer Moscow assistance only in the form of training and technical co-operation. But the European Commission expects in the next few weeks to receive requests from Moscow for emergency food and medicine in terms of the agreement by community leaders in Rome at the weekend to send humanitarian aid to the Soviet Union.

Dutch-inspired plans for a big energy co-operation treaty extending from Western Europe to the Soviet border received a favourable response from heads of government. Such a scheme will not be formally tabled, however, before the next gathering of EC leaders in December, again in Rome.

Britain is known to be strongly in favour of an energy agreement, which would encourage greater investment in the Soviet Union by giving political guarantees to Western firms exploiting oil and gas reserves there. Britain also believes the agreement would secure steady oil supplies for the community, offsetting its dangerous dependence on supplies from the volatile Middle East.

The Soviet Union dominated the first round of talks in Brussels yesterday between leading delegates from the world's 24 richest nations. The G-24 group, devised to channel aid to the emerging democracies in Eastern Europe under the guidance of the European Commission, later discussed ways of bolstering reform in the East, in the wake of the catastrophic effect of soaring oil prices on their fragile economies.

Frans Andriessen, the Dutch European commissioner for foreign affairs, is in favour of a special rescue fund to prevent some of the more precarious reforms, such as currency convertibility, from collapsing under the weight of rising oil prices and other side-effects of the confrontation in the Gulf.

Bonn sees future in its own image

From IAN MURRAY in BONN

GERMANY regarded European political union as no more than a logical extension of its own federal system, Irmingard Adam-Schwartz, the minister responsible for European affairs, told the Bundestag yesterday.

There was, she said, no question of Germany surrendering its sovereignty in negotiations about political union with other members of the European Community. She promised that in the final treaty member states would retain enough autonomy to be able to take many decisions at national level.

Political union would be in line with what she called "the principle of subsidiarity", which is the constitution's basis in Germany under which power in appropriate areas is devolved from the federal government to the state parliaments. "Decisions will only be taken in Brussels which can be carried out better at community level than by individual member states," Frau Adam-Schwartz said.

This suggests that, just as the Bundesbank wants to see a future European central bank shaped in its own image, the German government wants to see any constitution of a

future European political union moulded to conform with its own Basic Law.

Under the law's terms, individual states are free to pass laws covering 23 different matters, from criminal sentencing to public welfare and from toll roads to consumer protection. The federal government has exclusive rights over just 11 areas, including defence, foreign policy, customs tariffs, postal services, coinage and rail and air transport services.

Under Article 72 of the Basic Law, federal legislators can pass laws outside these areas only when an individual state cannot effectively control any matter or when one state's regulations might prejudice the interests of others.

The minister's statement emphasised that political union was not to be forced on any state and that every community member would have a freedom of choice on what role the EC should play. She pledged, however, for all states to be ready to accept the goal of integration. The EC was the most successful democratic community of nations, she said, and was thus the bearer of hope for the people of central and eastern Europe.

Brundtland takes helm amid row over EC ties

From TONY SAMSTAG in OSLO

last month during an otherwise routine meeting of Nordic ministers.

Implying that Swedish neutrality was no longer a bar to membership in the post-Cold War era, Mr Andersson said: "I would not rule out the possibility of Sweden's applying for membership in the EC in 1993 if the positive developments in Europe continue." Ingvar Carlsson, the Swedish prime minister, confirmed the policy at the annual Labour party conference.

Mrs Brundtland, who, as prime minister, lost last year's parliamentary elections, in part because of her party's refusal to discuss Europe, said the new Swedish line posed no difficulties for her, and hinted strongly that the Swedes had consulted her before Mr Andersson's statement.

Finland, like Sweden, has in the past worried that its neutrality, not to mention its "special relationship" with the Soviet Union, might be compromised by European membership. Following Sweden's lead, recent public opinion polls in Finland have shown for the first time a majority in favour of membership.

It is Uffe Ellemann-Jensen, the Danish foreign minister of

Denmark (the only Nordic EC member), who can take much of the credit for these changes. Earlier this year, he took the unprecedented step of publishing a kind of European manifesto in the leading newspapers of each of the Nordic EFTA nations.

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NEW YORK NOTEBOOK by Charles Bremner

Condemned out of the mouths of babes

Until glasnost, Soviet children were brought up to revere Pavel Morozov, the schoolboy who put the party before his parents and had them shot for hoarding potatoes. In the atmosphere of bodily puritanism now pervading this country, young Americans may soon be tempted to shop their parents for smoking. First, life insurance companies devised policies that are invalidated if the holder smokes. Then came employers who demand non-smoking pledges from their workers, even at home. Now a New York judge has ruled that a parent's nicotine habit should be a factor in deciding custody in a divorce.

The case followed others in the past few months in which courts have ruled on a child's right to live in a smoke-free home. In August, a judge in Sacramento ordered a woman not to smoke in front of her son, aged five. "This is a logical extension of the court's power to prevent a parent from using alcohol or drugs," said Charles Asbury, the lawyer for the boy's father. A Louisiana court has also curtailed a

father's visiting rights because his smoking disturbed his son's health. In the New York case, the judge awarded custody to Catherine Santalino, despite her smoking habit, because he allowed that her husband's cocaine addiction weighed as a more negative factor. John Gennelli, Mrs Santalino's lawyer, was nevertheless upset by the judge's stipulation about her smoking. "What about if the mother or father cook with a high cholesterol diet? Are we going to say that is detrimental to a child?" Other lawyers said that by admitting smoking as a factor in custody disputes, the courts were inviting children to become informers.

One place you can be sure of a smoke-free environment is on US airlines, since most flights prohibit the practice. Attention is now focused on the next most unhealthy in-flight activity: eating the airline food. With hard-pressed companies shaving every possible cent from their costs, the sludge they serve on domestic flights is so poor that nutritionists advise abstinence.

One steward on a recent United flight from New York to Chicago announced the dinner service and said: "We shall be holding a competition for the passenger who can guess what he ate."

Now the pilots are complaining. Those at Pan Am have petitioned their bosses, noting that "when it comes to providing us with meals, all the things your mother said were bad for you are there on the tray". Americans are getting used to hearing the pilots complaining. Morale in Pan Am and Eastern, two of the most troubled lines, has sunk so low it is not unknown for the captain to air his views on management to passengers in mid-flight. American pilots have their own image problems, particularly since the entire crew of one airliner was convicted of drunken flying.

Ever since Walt Disney used to pursue anyone who purloined the good name of Mickey Mouse, the proprietors of American trademarks have been quick to defend their creations with lawsuits. Now the Northrop Corporation, maker of the B-2 stealth bomber, has unleashed its lawyers in pursuit of the good name of the multi-billion-dollar pride of the US Air Force. Stealth Condos Inc of Texas, is "likely to cause confusion, or to cause mistake or to deceive" people, according to the Northrop suit. They did not explain the nature of the possible confusion. John Hughes, aged 28, the head of the condom firm, says Northrop is being "absolutely ridiculous". But he does acknowledge that the contraceptives draw on the image of the radar-proof bomber. Their sales slogan is: "They'll Never See You Coming."



Former Vatican banker resigns

From PAUL BOMPARD in ROME

ARCHBISHOP Paul Marcinkus, the cigar-smoking and golf-playing former head of the Vatican bank and a key figure in the Banco Ambrosiano scandal, resigned yesterday from the Vatican City administration.

After the scandal, which was linked to the death of Roberto Calvi, the banker, in 1982, and the disappearance of \$1.2 billion (£630 million), the IOR, the Vatican's bank, was reorganised. Monsignor Marcinkus lost all effective power and was given a relatively minor job in the Holy See's administration.

He will return to his native Chicago, which he left in 1969 to become one of the most powerful personalities in the Vatican hierarchy. He will be given a parish and it seems unlikely that he will ever become a cardinal. In an interview he complained: "I've no doubt I'll be remembered as the villain in the Calvi affair."

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Change of Interest Rates

INVESTMENTS

With effect from 1st November 1990 the rates of interest listed below will apply to savings and investment accounts both new and existing.

OTHER ACCOUNTS

Interest rates on accounts other than those listed are available on request.

	Net Rate	Gross Rate	Net Rate	Gross Rate
	Before 1st Nov 1990	From 1st Nov 1990	Before 1st Nov 1990	From 1st Nov 1990
STERLING ASSET				
Annual Interest	12.00	11.00	12.00	11.00
Monthly Interest	1.00	0.92	1.00	0.92
INSTANT SAVER				
Annual Interest	12.00	11.00	12.00	11.00
Monthly Interest	1.00	0.92	1.00	0.92
CURRENT ACCOUNT				
Monthly Interest	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
HIGH INTEREST CHECK ACCOUNT				
Annual Interest	12.00	11.00	12.00	11.00
Monthly Interest	1.00	0.92	1.00	0.92
RETIREMENT INVESTMENT ACCOUNT				
Annual Interest	12.00	11.00	12.00	11.00
Monthly Interest	1.00	0.92	1.00	0.92

Interest will be paid on all accounts on the 1st of each month. Interest is calculated on the basis of the actual number of days in the month. Interest is paid on all accounts on the 1st of each month. Interest is calculated on the basis of the actual number of days in the month.

Abbey National plc
Abbey House, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100.

Regrouping for the 90s

Martin Jacques

According to the opinion polls, the Conservatives are lagging well behind Labour on education. This is hardly surprising. The social agenda has always been the Achilles heel of Thatcherism. The latest poll findings, however, indicate something even more worrying for the government: people are now more concerned about education than any other issue. This suggests that the Conservatives' capacity to command the agenda of the future is on the wane.

For much of the 1980s, Thatcherism succeeded in doing this. While Labour seemed to be caught in a time-war, Thatcherism successfully identified itself with change. Any political project, particularly one as radical as Thatcherism, needs social groups to be the bearers of its ideas for change. Thatcherism has had three: self-made entrepreneurs, the aspirant working class and City dealers after Big Bang. Enterprise culture was the unifying theme. These groups came to symbolise both the mood of the Eighties and the Thatcherite project.

Nothing more clearly reflects the decline of Thatcherism than the fortunes of these groups. City scandals, higher interest rates and a reaction against conspicuous consumption have dramatically lowered the reputation of the City dealer. The message of ITV's excellent City soap opera, *Capital City*, is rather different now from what it was a year or so ago.

At the same time, many of the figures who epitomised the entrepreneurial revolution have either gone bust or are in financial difficulties. The idea of the aspirant working class also began to turn sour with the emergence of *Loose Women*, the figure that identified Thatcherite aspiration with narrow material gain. That souring has since been reinforced by the economic downturn.

But if the social groups which set the tone of the Eighties and came to symbolise Thatcherism have had their day, which groups will express the spirit of the Nineties?

Predictions here must combine the guessable and the unknowable. We can guess which groups will feel expansive and self-confident, and sense that they are going with the grain of change and are setting the tone of society. The unknowable factor is political. Whichever party wins the next election will inevitably have a powerful influence on the national mood and the fortunes of different groups.

Thatcherism has been unusually good at identifying such groups, largely because radical projects need social groups to be the agents of their transformations. By contrast, Labour has no clear view of which groups will bear its standard, because it has no coherent project for change.

The social group most likely to influence the spirit of the Nineties seems to me to be the highly-skilled technical, scientific and managerial stratum of leading-edge, hi-tech industries, both in the small-scale units to be found in science parks, and in the large-scale research centres of international firms. In the Nineties these groups will expand rapidly, and increasingly set the tone of economic activity.

They are strongly European in orientation — in their work, their location and aspirations — and they attach great importance to the quality of life, in particular the environment. Their work-ethic, furthermore, is based on cooperation and networking as much as on competition and the market. In sum, they are thoroughly in tune with the times.

They also have a strong stake in the quality of education. Indeed they are the symbol of the idea of human capital as the new measure of value. What is more, while they may be very well-paid, they are nevertheless dependent on good public services. It is here that one can see the danger for the Conservatives. The group most likely to set the tone of the Nineties, and so act as a symbol of the future, has a powerful interest in an issue — namely education — which is now regarded as the nation's top priority, which has acquired a new strategic significance, and which the Tories cannot be trusted with.

My second group is completely different, not least in origin, for it comes from the north rather than the south, where the technical salariat is primarily based. The last couple of years have seen a striking revival of the spirit of northern cities like Manchester. There is no particular social group which symbolises this revival, though the young are important, but there is unquestionably a new mood of civic and regional pride, a new sense of confidence and identity. This is partly a reaction against London and the domination of the south which has been such a feature of Thatcherism, but it is also about discovering a cultural identity within a wider context, notably Europe and, in the case of the Olympics, the world.

Finally, by the millennium, women will comprise roughly half the workforce. As a consequence, the pressure for a new and more flexible model of work and society will be even greater. The incidence of part-time work will continue to grow, as will career-breaks, parental leave, and sabbaticals. The last decade has seen all these things expanding despite the dominant political ethos of the time. The coming decade could see women as the cutting-edge of what might be described as a flexible revolution, which is likely to be central to the spirit of the times.

...and moreover

CRAIG BROWN

It has been a thrilling week for Shakespeare lovers. We had hoped to discover a lone sonnet, maybe, or even a couple of facts from an unfinished play, but what we finally chanced upon surpassed our wildest dreams. There, buried under an ancient rose bush on the outskirts of Stratford was a superb cache of contemporary interviews with our most famous playwrights.

At first we failed to register the full majesty of what we had found. The mildewed cache consisted of two old tape cassettes, an ancient video, and a couple of pages torn, seemingly at random, from 16th-century magazines. It was only when we saw that one of the pages was headed "The Sunday Interview: Jemima Askin meets Will Shakespeare" that we knew we were on to something.

This was what we had longed for! However much we had enjoyed the plays and the poems, we still yearned to know more of the man himself. A knowledge of the person could only serve to illustrate his extraordinary creations. Sure enough, the Jemima Askin Interview gave us a remarkable insight into the way Shakespeare ate asparagus, and much, much more, including his annoying habit of speaking with his mouth full.

The article started with a telling description of the interviewer arriving at the Stratford hotel where they had agreed to meet:

"I sat in the Curvier for precisely 25 minutes before Mr Shakespeare deigned to turn up. The Curvier, it should be said, was not decorated to my taste: cheap flock wallpaper, indistinct paintings — and the waiters were by turns impatient and inefficient..."

This was exactly the sort of detail Shakespearean scholars had been craving. After another 12 paragraphs on the shortcomings in the pattern of the carpet — not to mention a marvellously waspish account of the hostess's manager's condescension with an upstairs squire — who should enter but William Shakespeare himself! Once again, Jemima Askin did not miss a detail:

"His shoes were slightly stained with what looked like blackcurrant juice, and his breeches had an air of decrep-

itude. His ruff was, indeed, rough, and could have done with a good dose of starch. His goatee beard was, I thought, a mistake, giving him the look of a supernatural court jester or a minor suitor of a discredited duchess."

Jemima Askin then asks the famous playwright if she can buy him a drink before his meal. She is shocked when he pumps for a glass of mead, the third most expensive drink on the list ("I got the firm impression that, had he been paying, he would have chosen something more modest, but his close friends had already warned me that he was never one to miss a free drink"). They then sit and talk for a while, mainly about Jemima Askin's previous interview with Christopher Marlowe ("that squeaky voice got right up my nose" and about her fascinating childhood and adolescence. She notes with interest that Shakespeare refuses the bowl of peanuts, yet tucks into the olives with gusto.

The manager then shows them into the dining-room (she notes with surprise that Shakespeare forgets to let her go through the door first). The table-mats then allow Jemima full rein for her waspish turn of phrase!

From then on, the interview is a veritable treasure-trove for the Shakespeare buff. First, there is the famous "Asparagus Incident" in which Jemima Askin notes with distaste that Shakespeare eats two spears at once. Then he asks for more butter, neglecting that simple word "please", and finally there is a word or two on Shakespeare's late plays.

"I happened to mention to the Great Playwright that my cat for Hamlet or the Globe was jolly uncomfortable, and that there was a woman in front of me wearing a large hat which obstructed my view of the stage; furthermore, there was only one interval, and the service at the theatre bar was at best sluggish. He rewarded this information with an obliging grimace, but it clearly did not enter his Great Playwright's Head for one second that he should offer me a full refund."

Jemima's revealing interview with Shakespeare — with its tied "Bard Breath" — ends there, but the other interviews are quite revealing, and I shall return to them next week.

Mary Ann Sieghart welcomes a new book on sex education for children at primary school

Never too young for the facts of life

Doubtless the usual squeals of outrage will greet yesterday's launch of *Knowing Me, Knowing You*, a new sex education book for primary schools. Indeed Victoria Gillick complained about it before it was even published: "They have had 20 years of this kind of sex education in secondary schools, and we have the highest rate of promiscuity in our history. Now the same perversion is being introduced to little children. God help us if they don't stop this now."

Perversity? Can Mrs Gillick really believe that teaching children the facts of life — facts that they must learn sooner or later — is as unwholesome, say, as pedophilia or incest? God help us if these views ever have any influence over the educational establishment.

One of the best favours a parent or teacher can do for a child is to talk openly about sex. The easiest way to avoid inhibitions and anxieties about sex in later life is to learn about it early, to talk about it as freely as any other natural part of life, and to think about it rationally. Ignorance of or guilty feelings about sex are far more likely to lead to difficulties in adult life.

When, then, should sex education start? There is an advantage in talking about sex before children start experiencing sexual feelings, so that discussion can be freer from the embarrassment brought on by confronting adolescents with their own secret urges. Moreover, children are exposed to sexuality through films, advertisements and television long before they reach secondary school. And many girls now embark on puberty while still in their last year or two of primary school.

It is simply not wise to let children acquire a distorted view of sex through playground myth when they could be learning the facts in class, and would prefer to do so. Many perfectly respectable primary schools already teach all the facts about sex, up to and including penetration, in biology lessons. Children learn about the sexual organs next, the heart and lungs the week. They would think it bizarre if they were allowed to learn about one part of the human body but not another.

Research by the Schools Health Education Unit at Exeter University showed that three-quarters of pupils aged seven wanted to be taught about human reproduction, and two-thirds of girls wanted to

learn about the imminent changes to their bodies.

The puritan lobby seems to be terrified that learning about sex encourages schoolchildren to be promiscuous — as if sex were not a natural human urge, as if not knowing about it would stem all sexual desire. As Sigmund Freud pointed out, pre-pubescent children are sexually latent. Sex education in primary schools will not lead to a rash of sexually active ten-year-olds. But once children reach puberty (whether knowledge about sex or not), they feel the same urges that other animals — which have never been told about sex — feel at puberty.

There is no point in trying to deny these sexual feelings. The question is how best to deal with them? No sex education class should ignore the moral dimension to sex and human relationships. Nor do they. As Her Majesty's Inspectorate has advised, "In sex education, factual information about the physical aspects of sex, though important, is not more important than consideration of the qualities of the values, standards and the exercise of personal responsibility as they affect individuals and the community at large."

In *Knowing Me, Knowing You*, children are led through all sorts of exercises about human feelings, relationships, needs, differences and responsibilities before they even start to learn about the human body.

Equally, no moral dimension can be discussed or understood until the basic facts have been digested. Teachers are aware that there are many views about the morality of sex. In any class, the parents of some of the children will believe that sex before marriage is immoral; others that it is perfectly acceptable. Teachers can explain these diverse views, and they can encourage children not to be shy about holding the former view. They can also explain the moral hazards of sex, about hurting one's partner, about the undesirability of bringing an unwanted baby into the world, and how one partner can sometimes be exploited by the other.

Sex is too important to be ignored. But it is beset by pitfalls. The physical ones — unwanted pregnancies and sexually transmitted diseases — are entirely avoidable, but only through knowledge. Research carried out by the Guttmacher Institute between 1982 and 1986 has shown that the

lowest rates of teenage pregnancy are found in countries where, among other factors, there are effective sex education programmes.

Of course teenagers can and do sometimes decide not to have premarital sex at all. That is what Mrs Gillick and many others would like. But they cannot shut their eyes to the fact that other teenagers will want to. Better, surely, that when they do, they are able to avoid pregnancy or catching a sexually-transmitted disease.

Sex education classes are undoubtedly difficult to teach. Many teachers might prefer to hand the responsibility back to parents, but the vast majority of parents want schools to teach their children about sex — 96 per cent, according to one survey.

Moreover, parents are, on the whole, bad at teaching their children the facts of life. Most children know them by the age of 14, but nearly half say they heard them first from friends. Those parents who are most likely not to want their children to learn about sex at school are also those who are least likely to talk openly about sex at home. Why should parents foist their own sexual repressions on their children?

Conor Cruise O'Brien reports on the drama of a 1982 tape recording that could scupper the Irish government

The Muse, wrote W.B. Yeats, "is a woman, and loves warty lads who tell lies". If that be so, the reigning favourite of the muse, the wariest lad of all, is undoubtedly Brian Lenihan, deputy premier of the Irish Republic, candidate for the presidency and closest political confidant of the Taoiseach, Charles J. Haughey.

Mr Lenihan's living became so flagrantly exposed last week that it now endangers Mr Haughey's government, which faces a vote of no confidence on the issue this afternoon, and looks likely to fall. Inevitably, the Lenihan affair is compared to Watergate, since in both cases a politician's lies were exposed by a tape. In Dublin, the word "Arasgate" has been coined, from "Aras", the Gaelic word for the presidential residence in the Phoenix Park. (The word "Dublingate" is primarily a British usage, not a Dublin one.)

Yet Arasgate and Watergate are different in one important respect. Richard Nixon had serious reasons for lying. He was covering up a criminal offence — burglary — committed in his interests by his associates. Mr Lenihan's present troubles, however, derive entirely from his own exposed departures from the truth, and not from the intrinsic force of any exterior accusation against him. Mr Lenihan lied himself out of a non-existent difficulty, into a possibly terminal one.

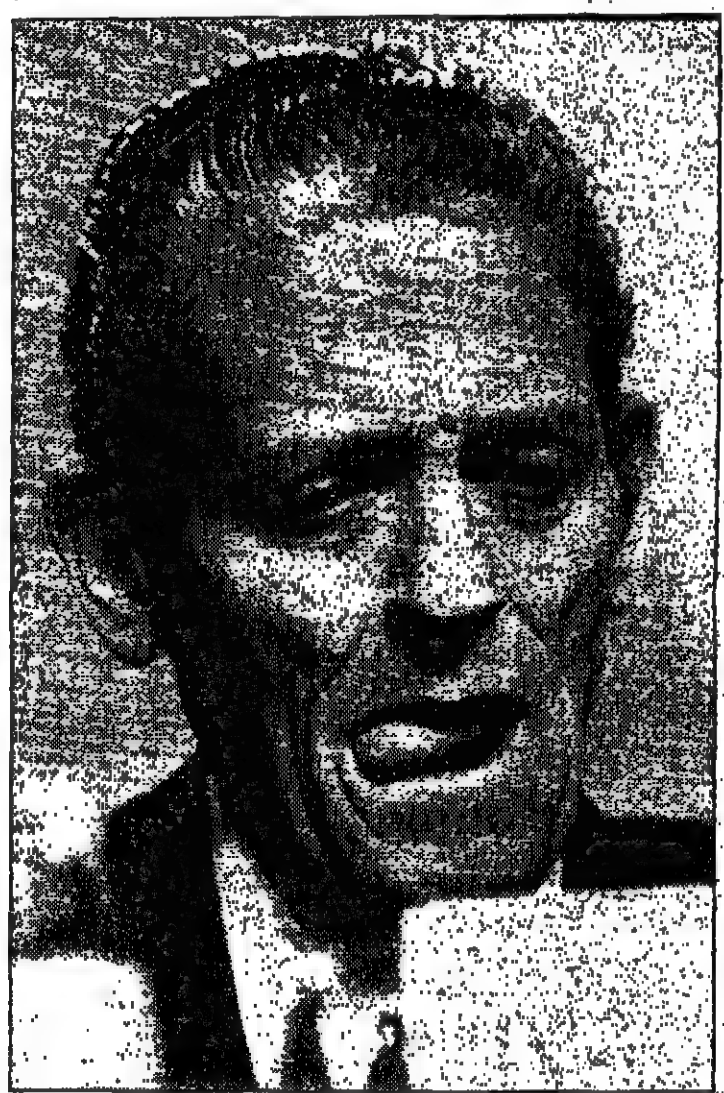
The circumstances are these. In January 1982, Garret FitzGerald advised the president — then, as now, Patrick Hillery — to dissolve the Dail after a vote went against his coalition government. Under the Irish constitution, the question of whether or not to dissolve the Dail at the request of a defeated Taoiseach is a matter within "the absolute discretion" of the president. Mr Haughey and his col-

leagues, then on the Opposition front bench, were anxious that President Hillery — a former party colleague of theirs and nominated for the presidency by their party — should use his discretion and refuse the dissolution. In that case, Mr Haughey was ready to form a government. Mr Lenihan telephoned the president's office in the hope of persuading him to refuse. The president declined to take their calls, and dissolved the Dail.

These transactions were immediately known to the political world in Dublin and were publicly referred to without being denied — until, that is, they became a focus of contention in the current presidential election. Dr FitzGerald referred to those telephone calls, claiming that they represented an improper attempt to bring pressure to bear on the president, and that impropriety cast doubt on Mr Lenihan's fitness for the presidency. Dr FitzGerald also implied that Mr Lenihan, if elected president, would have difficulty in resisting any similar pressure applied by Mr Haughey.

Up to that point, neither Mr Lenihan nor Mr Haughey was in any real trouble. They could have safely acknowledged the telephone calls, while denying any intention to apply improper pressure. They could have claimed to be ringing the president's office for the legitimate purpose of informing him of their willingness to form a government, a matter pertinent to the president's exercise of his "absolute discretion" in the circumstances.

Instead of following this prudent and sensible course, both Mr Haughey and Mr Lenihan immediately, and it seemed, almost automatically, vehemently denied making any such calls. Mr Haughey called Dr FitzGerald a liar on the floor of the Dail, and



Lenihan: he lied when the truth would have done no harm

other ministers took up the charge, repeatedly. The theme of Dr FitzGerald's alleged lies became prominent in the presidential campaign. Then the tape surfaced.

This was the tape of an interview that Mr Lenihan gave soon after the Hillery incident to a graduate student doing a thesis on the Irish presidency. The tape was played at a press conference organised by *The Irish Times* and was then broadcast on radio and

television. Listeners could hear Brian Lenihan's well-known voice talking about the telephone calls both he and Mr Haughey had made to the president. The president, said Mr Lenihan, was "strict and conventional", whereas Mr Haughey, in contrast, was "gung-ho". Mr Lenihan, on the tape sounded relaxed, and even complacent. He and Mr Haughey were a dashing pair of warty lads, it appeared, while the poor presi-

dent was a bit deficient in the warty department.

This was not, of course, the tone that Mr Lenihan had been assuming in his presidential campaign, in which he had been trying to sound as "strict and conventional" as anyone. Mr Lenihan has not tried to deny the authenticity of the tape, but does entirely deny his own account, as recorded on the tape. He sticks to his other story, that those telephone calls never happened. His remarks to the student were "casual", and so referred to transactions that never happened. His later denials, on the other hand, are based "on mature reflection" — a phrase more relished by his political enemies than by his friends.

After the tape was aired, Mr Lenihan's rating in the presidential polls dropped by 14 points, and he slipped from first place to second (at least in Dublin). But the presidential race is now overshadowed by a governmental crisis. Fianna Fail, which under Mr Haughey has become the warty party par excellence — had no trouble, at least at first, in sticking by Brian Lenihan — lies or no lies, who cares?

But Mr Haughey's government depends for office on six Progressive Democrats. The Progressive Democrats left Fianna Fail in 1982 because of Mr Haughey's "gung-ho" conduct of affairs. They are to a man and woman "strict and conventional" and they would have the greatest difficulty in pledging their confidence in, or remaining in, a government whose Taoiseach and deputy they know to have lied to the Dail and the public over a matter with constitutional implications.

It appears that the fall of the government can now be averted only by Mr Lenihan's prompt resignation. At the time of writing, Mr Lenihan is still saying he will not resign. But if he does not resign before this afternoon's vote, he may find himself having to do so after it, along with the rest of his government colleagues.

Book versus Camra

No sooner has A.S. Byatt cashed her Booker Prize cheque than the Whitbread Book of the Year Prize runs into trouble. Members of the Campaign for Real Ale are planning to picket next week's shortlist announcement in London, in protest at Whitbread's takeover and closure of the much-loved Higgsons brewery in Liverpool.

Unlike the Booker, the prize is open to contestants from any branch of literature. Frances Wheen's biography of Tom Driberg is widely tipped. Although the winner will not be announced until the new year, the bearded man with personalised hydrometers and an encyclopaedic knowledge of original gravity are keen to embarrass the sponsors at every opportunity. They have been boycotting Whitbread pubs and products, and are particularly peeved to find that Liverpool poet Roger McGough is one of the Whitbread judges.

"He has sold out," says Merseyside's Dave Goodwin, of Camra's national executive. "How dare he say he's a Scouser when he's so out of touch with the grass-roots feeling on his home territory?" McGough is unrepentant. "I didn't know this Higgsons thing was going on," he said from his home in Nottingham. "It was a sad day, when the brewery closed, but I shall be judging the prize."

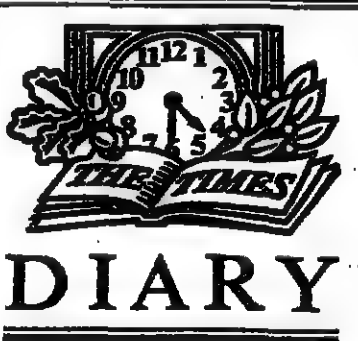
Stephen Cox, Camra's campaigns manager, says real ale drinkers do not want to appear philistines when faced with such luminaries as Malcolm Bradbury, Penelope Fitzgerald and Ben Pimlott, who are also judges. "I might bring some dinner-jacketed pickets along for the prize-giving," he says.

"Cloud-cuckoo-land", the phrase Mrs Thatcher used about European monetary union at the Rome summit, is perhaps more telling than she knew — and more so than Gerald Kaufman's letter on the page opposite suggests. Aristophanes invented the mythical kingdom in his comedy *The Birds*, partly to satirise his fellow citizens' imperialistic ambitions in Sicily. As readers of *Thucydides* will know, the Athenian army was wiped out while invading Syracuse, and the failure of the expedition contributed to the defeat of Athens in its war against Sparta. The PM picked an ideal European metaphor for grandiose projects that fail.

El Mickey?

Was Walt Disney the all-American we imagine? Was he even of British stock? According to the *Times* obituary in 1966, he was born in Chicago on December 5, 1901, of an Irish-Canadian father and a German-American mother. Seventeen years earlier he had been in Britain trying to trace a supposed link with Edward III. So aficionados of Mickey Mouse and Donald Duck will be surprised by claims that he was in fact Spanish.

According to a guidebook approved by the ministry of information and tourism in Madrid, Disney was born Jose Guisao, son of a dockworker in the small southern town of Mojacár. Carlos Alemendros, the author, says the young José and his widowed mother were taken to America by a kindly sea-captain, who found them jobs on a Californian farm; the farmer, one Walter Disney, adopted him and gave him the Disney name. Mojacár, says Alemendros, first



Dead green

Firm in their belief that environmental protection does not end at the graveyard gate, Britain's undertakers have organised a seminar to analyse the green revolution and its relevance to their industry. In the new year, members of the National Association of Funeral Directors will meet to discuss a variety of topics

became aware of the connection about 35 years ago when two Hollywood aides arrived saying Disney wanted to marry and needed a copy of his birth certificate. According to the book, Disney never admitted he came from humble Mojacár, but never denied it either. "When asked about it, he used to shrug his shoulders and say with a smile on his lips: 'E cli lo sa?' (Who knows?)"

The Disney organisation in California is less coy. "He was born in Chicago," says a spokeswoman. "The Spanish are lying."

Inside information The few guests who recognised him behind the cloak and dagger were surprised to see Air Vice Marshal "Johnnie" Walker, a senior figure in British military intelligence, at a London party marking Romania's armed forces day.

What could he be doing there? Not discussing closer military ties: Tom King, the defence secretary, has politely ignored a request to train Romanian officers under a military exchange programme, and in June the Americans cancelled a naval visit to the Black Sea port of Constanza.

Military attaches at the party put two and two together and came up with Saddam Hussein. When the butcher of Baghdad saw Ceausescu as a fellow spirit, up to 5,000 Romanians were thought to be in Iraq, many working on military projects. With the new, albeit imperfect, Romania siding with the West against Saddam, debriefing sessions with key engineers would be highly prized by Western intelligence.

Hard on Hardie

A 1909 painting of the socialist pioneer Keir Hardie relaxing with other MPs on the House of Commons terrace is now gracing the walls of the Harcourt Room, only a few yards from where it was painted.

The work, by Milly Childers, was bought soon after completion by Sir Norman Lamont, a Conservative MP — no relation to the present number two at the Treasury — who took it to his ancestral home, Knockdu House, in Argyll. There, it stayed until the contents of the house were auctioned earlier this year. Patrick Cormack, chairman of the Commons works of art advisory committee, was alerted to the painting — which over the years had been presumed lost — and bought it.

But while MPs can pay tribute to Hardie in only workmen at the Commons have been more than cavalier with Hardie in bronze. Finding his bust in their way, they took it down and dumped it under a table. In an early day motion, the four Scots Nat MPs demand that when the bust has to be taken from its pedestal, "it should be displayed in a place of prominence and honour".

the association. "We have to move on this issue."

Of equal concern are the inroads into tropical forests made by customers who order expensive hardwood coffins. "You can now request a coffin made from wood from an approved forest in which trees are replanted as they are felled," says Gormall. The funeral directors hope that Chris Patten, the environment secretary, will take more than a passing interest in their conference. The environment is, after all, a matter of life and death.

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TOMORROW'S ENTENTE?

Margaret Thatcher's view of French policy towards Europe as a cocktail of opportunism was richly confirmed by the Rome summit. On monetary union, President Mitterrand's doubt that the German chancellor, Helmut Kohl, can have been no surprise: ever since German unification became inevitable, the French have been even more insistent on EMU than the Germans. But France's support for Kohl's refusal to strike a deal on farm policy, a decisive blow against the Gatt talks and against freer world trade, owed as much to Mitterrand's desire not to rock any electoral boats in Bonn as to France's own cowardice towards its farmers.

But Mrs Thatcher should not be too rude about the French. There is little doubt that the president of the European Commission, Jacques Delors, was genuinely anxious to avoid a showdown on EMU in Rome. He has become increasingly convinced that the Community needs Britain's wholehearted participation, as he recognises that the arguments constantly thrown up by Britain raise substantive constitutional issues and are not synthetic covers for naive chauvinism.

Every nation's approach to European union is rooted not in cosmopolitan idealism but in its leaders' perception of "how this will play back home". M Delors has political ambitions in France. He rightly senses a nationalist undercurrent in domestic French politics. In five years, voters might have little truck with Mitterrand's public commitment to an (undefined) European "federal finality". M Delors knows an insurance policy when he sees one, and subsidiarity — statutory protection for national rights from interference by Brussels — is just such a policy.

France's enthusiasm for European integration has always rested on an understanding of that country's best interests. The language is no longer that of *Europe des patries*, which de Gaulle believed would preserve French power at the centre of the world's most potent confederation of nations. That concept depended on maintaining the partnership between economically strong Germany and politically and militarily influential France as one between "horse and rider", with West Germany providing the muscle, France the brains.

The collapse of the Eastern bloc exposed the limits to French power while enormously increasing the actual and potential power of Germany. Hence French enthusiasm today for a federal structure to bolster French influence while containing that of a united Germany. M

Mitterrand's fear is that once a single European market has been achieved, Germany might lose interest in ceding power to Brussels, or to some majority-ruler central bank, and issue orders straight from Berlin. At that point, French influence over the EC would dwindle and anti-EC domestic pressure would rise. The more detailed the negotiations on political and monetary union become, the clearer may become the similarities between French and British reluctance to abandon national prerogatives.

The political consensus on European union within France between the main parties of left and right has already begun to show fissures. The RPR, M Chirac's Gaullist party, fought the elections for the European Parliament last year on the theme of a "Union of European States". In *Le Monde* yesterday the RPR secretary-general, Alain Juppé, took outright issue with "the internal dynamic of Brussels technocrats" which would transform the EC into a superstate, "heavy in bureaucracy and meagre in democracy". The RPR is distancing itself from a single European currency, and M Juppé's insistence on proper respect for national competence and the importance of national identity could become tomorrow's political orthodoxy.

French politicians are increasingly worried by the rift that has opened between all the main parties and the electorate, closely linked to the gap between the elitist technocrats' enthusiasm for European federation and popular anxieties about competing in the single market, about immigration and about the long-term submergence of French identity. The gainer from these worries has been Jean-Marie Le Pen, support for whose Nationalist party now stands at 15 per cent of the electorate and is based no longer merely on the poor urban vote, but also on a racist variation of traditional nationalism.

"France for the French" is a slogan common to small French shopkeepers and farmers alike. Not for nothing has Mitterrand sought to retain support by pursuing, outside Europe, an intensely nationalist foreign policy. The challenge for British policy in Europe is not to pander to this isolationism, but to work with the grain of French fears for their national identity. The underlying vitality of Gaullism could make the pursuit of subsidiarity a common platform for the development of a European Community in which Mrs Thatcher and M Mitterrand could happily cohabit.

HEALING INDIA'S WOUNDS

Government in India has come to a halt. Yesterday's tumultuous events in Ayodhya have plunged relations between Hindus and Muslims to a worse level than at any time since partition. The government's policy of enlarging reverse discrimination for the backward classes has set caste against caste. There are armed insurrections in Punjab, Kashmir and Assam with no political attempt to check them. Severe recession threatens as the Gulf confrontation forces up petrol prices and inflation. The short-lived minority administration of Vishwanath Pratap Singh has hopped from one crisis to another.

Mr Singh, whether or not he is serious about yesterday's offer to resign, faces a vote of confidence in the Lok Sabha next Wednesday which, since the withdrawal of support by the Hindu nationalists of the Bharatiya Janata Party, he is bound to lose. He has always said that under such circumstances he would not resign, but would press for a dissolution and a new general election, in which he might improve his position. The backward castes favoured by his new policy might well vote for him. So might the Muslims, grateful for his staunch defence of the integrity of Babur's mosque in Ayodhya. These groups make up, respectively, 52 per cent and 10 per cent of the population.

President Venkataraman is, however, not constitutionally bound by a request for a dissolution from a minority prime minister. He is likely to ask the leader of the biggest party, Rajiv Gandhi, to try to form a government. That would be a dilemma for Mr Gandhi. He must be flattered by this recovery in his fortunes, but it is said that he does not

want to resume power at this time. Plainly, to head a minority administration would put Mr Gandhi at the mercy of some unreliable small party's transient favour. But nor does he wish for a general election just now. He would prefer to support some dissident from Mr Singh's party, until the electoral conditions are more favourable.

The obvious dissident would be Chandrashekhar, who has been a leading light in the opposition since he split from Congress under Indira Gandhi. He has never held ministerial office, but has continuously manoeuvred to undermine his rivals. He could come to power with Mr Gandhi's support either by unseating Mr Singh at a meeting of the Janata Dal on Sunday, or by persuading at least 47 other members, a third of the party, to defect with him. That would get round the anti-defection laws which insist that MPs crossing the floor of the house must face a by-election. It would not be a good solution.

An election should be avoided if possible. This is not the time for India to undergo that divisive agony. The death toll which is mounting daily in the communal and caste violence would rise. The country cannot afford the astonishing £650 million that the polls would cost so soon after the last hustings.

Mr Venkataraman should use his presidential authority to try to form a government of national unity. Little ideology divides the parties. What India needs is an end to strife and populist gestures, and a government capable of stern administration. The grasping leaders in white homespun cotton must — at least temporarily — sink their differences in the interests of their electors.

MERELY PLAYERS

The impending closure of the Royal Shakespeare Company's operations in London is outrageous. The company this year received an 11 per cent rise in its government subsidy after a decade in which this subsidy has risen from £2.5 million to £6.5 million, only just behind inflation. Having chosen the high-risk policy of expanding output (and staff) and hoping it could browbeat ministers into meeting any resulting losses, the RSC finds itself close to bankruptcy. Past indulgence by the Arts Council and a report declaring its expansion "underfunded" are no excuse. The RSC is subsidised to run a flagship house in the capital. This is the sort of failure which, in a politician, would lead to demands for resignation from the RSC's famously outspoken stage.

Some crisis of this sort was probably inevitable from the moment in 1982 that the RSC moved into the unwelcoming and inefficient Barbican. An ugly building, high fixed costs and demoralising facilities have all militated against commercial success (though the London Symphony Orchestra, a fellow resident, has thrived). But the RSC did not help itself. Under the leadership of Trevor Nunn, it was notoriously averse to private sponsorship. Its recent, successful, conversion to fund-raising has helped reduce subsidy from almost a half to just over a quarter of income, but this has been too little and too late.

Observers are sceptical whether closing for four months for a net saving of £1.1 million is remotely sensible. There is a suspicion that a repeat of more popular productions and a reduction in staffing (the RSC employed 700 people last year) could reduce the accumulated deficit by more than closure. Nor does this take into account the savage impact of closure on

the other hardpressed businesses in the Barbican. These yesterday accused the RSC of playing crude politics with their livelihoods. The RSC now says that if it does not get more than the proposed 2.5 per cent increase next year — closure notwithstanding — it will abandon London altogether, relying on the resulting media furor to put pressure on the arts minister, David Mellor.

Mr Mellor should promptly tell the RSC's chairman, Geoffrey Cass, that any such threat would lead to a drastic cut in subsidy. Taxpayers do not need to provide £6 million for a theatre, playing largely to tourists, in Stratford, though they might pay for the RSC's excellent touring programme. Other companies, more tightly managed and doing (at present) more exciting work, have a strong claim to some of the cash that goes to the RSC. The expansion of the RSC out of Stratford in 1960 was a noble venture. But the RSC might benefit artistically from a period of provincial retrenchment.

Art is, in some sense, sacred. Public subsidy for art is not sacred but is justified, subject to constant public debate and scrutiny. No theatre company has a life tenure on subsidy, however great its past. Some old fogies must fall if young bloods are to be given their heads. The RSC is a business that has run itself into trouble, as have many others in the arts. Some, such as the excellent Young Vic theatre, are struggling to pull themselves up by their fundraising bootstraps. The RSC should cut its costs, not slash its output. If it refuses to do so, then Kenneth Branagh's Renaissance Theatre Company or Michael Pennington's English Shakespeare Company might be equally eager to carry forward the work of the bard.

Stop-go danger for universities

From Professor Maxwell J. Fry
Sir, Last year, I moved back to Britain (after 17 years abroad) from the University of California to the University of Birmingham. It surprised me to read in your leader on British universities (October 27) that the British university system is too extravagant. If this country of over 53 million inhabitants cannot afford to educate 362,100 students in research universities, we have indeed reached a sad state of affairs.

You hold up American state universities, which concentrate on teaching, as an alternative model. Take, however, the State of California with half the population of Britain. It funds a research university, the University of California, with an enrolment of 144,600 students. In addition, it finances a predominantly teaching university, the California State University, which enrolls about 350,000 students. California also boasts a number of well-known private universities, such as Cal Tech and Stanford. I heard no one complain that there were too many research universities in California.

It seems that two issues need separate consideration. One is whether or not all British universities should have the status of research universities. A simple and cheap solution here would be to give the name university to all polytechnics (if they wanted it). This could also be a first step in eradicating the binary divide.

A separate issue is whether the student/staff ratio in research universities should be raised. The academic staff at British universities could easily "process" three, five or ten times the number of students without giving up research time, i.e. without devoting more time to teaching. I left a research university with a student/staff ratio well over three times higher than the student/staff ratio in British universities but have not reduced the time I devote to teaching. There is no doubt which system I would prefer for my own children.

Yours faithfully,
MAXWELL J. FRY,
The University of Birmingham,
The Birmingham Business School,
Edgbaston, Birmingham B15 2TT,
October 29.

From the Chairman of the Committee of Chairmen of the University Councils

Sir, This committee, which is comprised of chairmen of the governing bodies of universities, includes industrialists, professional men and women and former senior public servants. As such, we take a broad view about the needs

of our institutions and the public which they serve.

Universities have responded with enthusiasm to the calls from successive secretaries of state for an expansion of student numbers and a broadening of the age and social mix of the intake. The fact that universities are significantly above the student numbers for which the Government has specifically funded them is evidence in itself of their commitment. They have also responded vigorously to the Universities Funding Council's request for their plans up to 1994-5 with bids for a growth of 19 per cent.

Such an expansion can only be contemplated on a properly planned basis, with the necessary steps being taken to provide teaching space, equip laboratories, appoint staff and find or build student residences. To do otherwise would be unbusinesslike, and would be potentially to let down students and their parents, and, more serious of all for the long term, would affect the quality of education which we must provide if we are to compete successfully with our European neighbours.

This whole process of expansion, however, has been placed in jeopardy by the decision of the UFC to put forward planning in suspense for 1991-2 (report, October 26). Only a month ago, the Public Accounts Committee criticised the UFC for not having in place the planning and financial arrangements necessary for universities to draw up realistic financial forecasts.

Universities genuinely believed that the period of enforced contraction and stop-go planning had been brought to an end by the Government's commitment to raise the proportion of the age group entering higher education to 25 per cent by the late 1990s and they prepared their institutional plans accordingly. In doing so, they had to balance arguments about quality with a proper regard for economy and efficiency. All this seems to have been put back into the melting pot but, more important, the educational futures of potential university entrants and the needs of employers for highly-qualified manpower are being put at risk.

If Government and the UFC are looking to the universities to provide for growth in student numbers of between 15 per cent and 20 per cent by 1994-5 and further expansion thereafter, we must have a longer planning and funding horizon than one year. Yours faithfully,
HUGH W. TRY, Chairman,
Committee of Chairmen of University Councils,
Brunel University,
Uxbridge, Middlesex.

Cash reforms

From Mr D. W. Bellamy
Sir, Is not the moment opportune for two desirable though unrelated reforms? First, now that we have joined the exchange-rate mechanism, to calculate our cost-of-living index, and hence the inflation rate, on the same basis as our European partners.

Secondly, to revise compensation for severe injuries to health to allow for the payment of a moderate lump sum and an indexed annuity, with safeguards for young dependents and spouses. Recent huge and primitive settlements appear to disregard the income yielded by the award. And I cannot be the only one to find it distasteful that, since heavy damages usually imply a lessened life expectancy, relatives may find themselves endowed with a substantial fortune because of the ill luck of one of their number or have control of it during the lifetime of the sufferer.

Yours truly,
DAVID BELLAMY,
13 Addison Road,
Gorleston, Norfolk.

Day-care surgery

From Dr E. J. McGuire
Sir, I am amazed at the naivety of the Audit Commission's recommendation (report, October 25) that health authorities should increase day-care surgery to cut down waiting lists.

Although it is undeniable that carefully selected cases can be treated without danger on a day-care basis and that the number of patients that can be treated in a given number of beds is in an inverse ratio to the length of inpatient stay, the association should recognise that the more work carried out the greater the cost. Although we would all like to do more work for the greater good of the population's health, lack of money prevents us from doing so.

Yours faithfully,
E. J. MCGUIRE,
The Bricklayers, Clay Hill,
Goudhurst, nr Cranbrook, Kent.

Parcel post

From Mrs Jane Evans
Sir, Earlier this year the parcels division of the Post Office became Parcelforce, a separate operation which would supposedly be more efficient. Previously, to collect an undelivered parcel, I made a five-minute journey to the local post office. Under Parcelforce, I have to travel to my "local" parcels depot, which is a 30-mile round trip to an industrial site on the other side of Northampton.

Care for the customer is the first test of the commercial world in which I work. Will the Post Office wake up to that basic rule?

Yours faithfully,
J. C. EVANS,
8 Dove Close,
Towcester, Northamptonshire.

Child care needs

From Mrs Gillian Pugh
Sir, Your report (October 15) of Wandsworth Council's proposals to extend nursery education at the expense of much-needed day care facilities is a further reminder of the lack of a coherent child care policy in Britain.

We warmly applauded plans to offer a nursery education place to all children of three and over — proposals laid down in a government White Paper in 1972 when Mrs Thatcher was minister of education — but it is unfortunate that this should be funded from savings on day care.

The Children Act, to be implemented next year, requires local authorities to provide day care for children in need. Wandsworth is reported to be cutting its day nurseries and childminding support. This will place a considerable strain on families who are already struggling to cope.

Part-time nursery education will — on its own — be of little use to such families. It can neither provide support for families at risk nor meet the needs of children whose parents are working.

As our European neighbours acknowledge, young children and their families don't need care or education — they need a combination of the two, provided within an overall family policy framework.

Yours faithfully,
GILLIAN PUGH, Head,
Under Fives Unit,
8 Wakley Street, ECL.

Housing market

From Mr M. H. Ewing
Sir, I am delighted to see Mr Buisson, Director-General of the Building Society Association, responding (October 22) to your leader (October 17) but I have a great deal of respect for the building societies and I am forced to write as I believe he has done the association no service.

How can he claim that all but a small fraction of the £42.7 billion lent to "homebuyers" was spent on the purchase and improvement of housing in circumstances where all too often societies do not know the purpose of the loan?

It is disappointing that a confusion has arisen from his reference to equity withdrawals, which seeks to argue that such withdrawals are not the result of those buyers taking out loans. He is confusing cause and effect. The fact that the Government and the societies have encouraged first-time buyers to gear up their equity must mean that some are gearing down at the other end of the chain.

Yours faithfully,
M. H. EWING,
23 Avenue Road,
Belmont, Surrey.

Letters to the Editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — (071) 782 5046.

Challenge on 'myopic' traffic plans

From the Director of the Civic Trust

Sir, As a speaker on the conference platform used by the Secretary of State for Transport to castigate "myopic planners" for London's traffic problems (report, October 25), may I register the bewilderment and disbelief felt not just by myself but by many of the delegates present who were largely non-planners.

Post-war new towns in Britain, which were the product of strategic rather than local thinking, are by any standards one of the resounding successes of sensible planning. They were a response to desperate conditions of high density and low amenity in our cities and were supported by planners and politicians alike. Ironically, however, it was the planners who warned of the increasing car ownership to come and of the dangers of assuming that self-containment would ever be more than partial.

The traffic chaos of London has rather more to do with lack of national policy for the regions that might have eased developed pressures on the capital, with the hiatus in strategic city-wide planning which even business interests now deplore, and with an alarming lack of investment in, and support for, public transport. Such investment is indeed now contemplated but it seems we will be close to the next century before we have one cross-rail link when Paris already has three and is building another.

I suspect that most planners would not disagree with the secretary of state's objective of balance but surely that is something we have to plan for. And where we need "integration" is between transport investment of all kinds and land use, with a view to trying to reduce the need to travel.

Keeping nerve in Gulf

From Mr Richard Luce, MP for Shoreham (Conservative)

Sir, *The Times* is right to advocate steadiness and consistency of purpose by the international community in dealing with the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait (leaders, October 24 and 29).

The creation of stability in the Middle East is a world interest. The fulfilment of the United Nations resolution demanding total withdrawal of Iraqi forces from Kuwait and the restoration of the legitimate Government is an essential precondition for the creation of stability in the Middle East. Failure to achieve this will give a green light to Saddam Hussein and others to expand their empires and will weaken the resolve of moderate Arab states to resist it.

We now face a rare opportunity in the Middle East to mobilise the forces of moderation against those who believe in extremism, violence and expansion.

The single most important way of achieving this is for the United Nations, supported by the vast majority of the international community, to continue to get a clear, determined and united

message across to Saddam Hussein that we will not relent until such time as he withdraws from Kuwait. There must be no misunderstanding and no failure of nerve.

During my recent visit to Bahrain, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates, I found a complete unity of purpose on all this. The Arab leaders in the area are thinking positively about how to create greater regional stability through military, economic and political cooperation. It is, of course, for the Arab states to take the lead on this but no one should underestimate the long-standing friendship which these countries have with Britain and their desire to seek our advice and help.

A new opportunity is emerging for the Western world and the international community to work with the moderate forces in the Middle East to defeat the cancer of extremism and violence. It will require a statesmanship, a pre-condition for success, however, is the total withdrawal of Iraqi forces from Kuwait and the restoration of the legitimate Government. On this we must not waver.

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD LUCE,
House of Commons.

Shame on you, Parkinson, for calling Abercrombie a myopic planner — for that, perhaps unknowingly, is what you have done.

Yours truly,
COLIN BUCHANAN,
Appletree House,
Lincombe Lane,
Boars Hill, Oxford,
October 28.

Raising speed limits

From Mr Ian Wilson

Sir, May I suggest that the conviction of the Princess Royal for speeding (report, October 23) is symptomatic of the contempt into which our speed limits have fallen.

The time has come for a review of blanket speed limits, giving due weight to the views of the Association of Chief Police Officers and the fact that motorway speed limits in particular are widely disregarded.

A modest increase to 80 mph for cars on most motorways and dual carriageways would be more realistic and introduce a differential between cars and coaches. A rise to 70 mph on "A" roads could be reduced locally, where conditions require it. Speed limits as a whole might then be better respected and police enforcement made both easier and better accepted.

Yours faithfully,
IAN WILSON,
18 Wellington Road,
Taunton, Somerset.

From Mr Philip Chappell

Sir, Your leader highlights equity withdrawal in the housing market as the chief cause of the recent inflationary boom. But your cure, treating equity withdrawal as a conventional consumer loan but leaving genuine housing finance untouched, merely adds another inefficiency to the savings market.

The real distortion in the housing market springs from the gullibility of building society depositors, many of them elderly, who have been fobbed off with a negative rate of return, in real terms on an after-tax basis. Depositors need to demand a proper return which reflects the risk of inflation. Lending institutions need no longer distinguish between housing finance and consumer loans. The Government should withdraw the fiscal privilege given to mortgage interest, along with all other fiscal privileges. Sanity would be restored to the housing market, choice and competition to the savings market, and fiscal equality to the tax system.

Of course, house prices would fall by about a quarter nearer to the level of housing costs in Europe. Apart from bankrupting a few lending institutions, would it be so dangerous to prick the housing balloon in this way?

Yours faithfully,
PHILIP CHAPPELL,
22 Froggat Lane, NW3.

Bridleway evidence

From Mrs Caroline Clayden

Sir, When bridleway rights are in dispute it is necessary to provide evidence of the use of the route as a bridleway continuously over a period of 25 years. This, of necessity, means asking members of the public to be prepared to stand up at a public enquiry and be questioned in detail on their memories of using the route on horseback.

In two recent cases in this area two elderly ladies gave evidence for us. The aggressive nature of the questioning by solicitors acting for parties opposed to the bridleways, reduced them almost to tears and their evidence became confused. Both bridleways were subsequently lost.

Such insensitive handling of elderly witnesses compounds the problems we already face in providing user evidence over 25 years from an increasingly mobile population. I believe a written affidavit from senior citizens should be acceptable and carry as much weight in court as a personal appearance.

Yours faithfully,
CAROLINE CLAYDEN
(Chairman, North-East Somerset Bridleways Association),
The Old School,
Holcombe, Somerset.

Given the bird

From the chief Opposition spokesman on foreign affairs

Sir, No wonder that Britain exasperates our European partners. First the Prime Minister runs amok in Rome. Then *The Times* seeks to expatriate for England a classical Greek comedy.

Citing Mrs Thatcher's reference to cloud-cuckoo-land, your diplomatic editor claims that Europeans were stumped by this obscure "English metaphor." What has *The Times* come to when it is not aware that cloud-cuckoo-land was created in 414 BC by Aristophanes in his marvellous *The Birds*? Far from being an English metaphor, cloud-cuckoo-land is part of our common European cultural heritage.

Perhaps the Greek Prime Minister could enlighten Mrs Thatcher at the next summit — provided she lets him get a word in edgewise — that it is the Greeks who have a phrase for it.

Yours sincerely,
GERALD KAUFMAN,
House of Commons,
October 30.

MEDIA

Farewell, faction

A CHOICE of words is now available to replace "faction" as a description of the blending of fact and fiction in drama-documentaries. The second edition of *The Longman Register of New Words* offers, for example, "mockumentary" for radio or television programmes made in the style of a documentary but containing fictional elements. An appropriate term for *The Cook Report* might be "confrontationism", and "documentarism" and "infotainment" are also useful standbys for current affairs programmes blurring the line between news and entertainment. The register, which specialises in keeping "its finger on the lexical pulse of the English language", has also come up with "cassingles", otherwise the top 40 hits on cassette, and "flashforwarding", the opposite of flashbacks.

Brand invasion

COCA-COLA and Pepsi might be the most recognisable western brands throughout eastern Europe, but Nivea, Nescafé, Levis and McDonalds are not far behind, according to a survey by Signal International, the market researcher. Poles, Czechs, Soviets, Hungarians, Yugoslavs and the former East Germans tend to consume more soft drinks and sweets and smoke more than their western counterparts. Most interviewees wanted fresh food more than anything else, followed by fashionable clothing and footwear, cars, household appliances, books, leisurewear, furniture, consumer electronics, fast food, cameras, records, tapes and CDs.

Press protest

NEWSPAPER editors have been urged to defend investigative journalism in a last-minute barrage of letters to the Home Office and Tory MPs protesting about the likely criminalisation of some journalistic practices by the forthcoming Criminal Justice Bill. The bill, expected to follow the recommendations of the Calcutt report, would make it illegal, unless given permission, to photograph or record interviews on private property, or place a surveillance device on private property to obtain information for publication. The Newspaper Society and the Guild of British Newspaper Editors are angry that they have not been consulted about the bill's contents.

MELINDA WITTECK

The rubies who must be read

What is the essence of a good columnist?

Charles Wintour considers, on examining some of the leaders in the field, that having knocked around a bit is an asset, while modesty is not



Delicate plants to transplant: columnists Keith Waterhouse, left, and Sir John Junor

He has an additional advantage to his newspaper: he has been there a long time, more than ten years, long enough for the relationship to seem permanent. No doubt other newspapers have tried to tempt him away but wisely he has refused, for columnists, like peonies, are surprisingly delicate plants and seldom are transplanted with complete success. For many years Sir John Junor's column was a key element in the success of the *Sunday Express*; it may have been 19th hole journalism — an encapsulation of golf club opinion — but it was widely written and eagerly read. Then sometime after a tiff with his new publisher, Lord Stevens, he moved to the *Mail on Sunday*. It seemed like a coup at the time but the column, despite more lavish display, even a smiling picture of himself, is to my mind less effective than it was. In the old days, would he have led his column with an item on Jeffrey Archer "being made to look sour and ill-tempered" on the *Clive Anderson Talks Back* show? Not a line of dialogue was quoted; there was only an assertion that "the audience came close to booing him". But that was the main topic of his column on Sunday.

Keith Waterhouse is another columnist who has moved stables. He was magnificent in the *Daily Mirror*, indeed, he was compulsive reading. But he decided he would be happier at the *Daily Mail*. He writes as well as ever, but he left his old groupies behind him and may not quite have replaced them all yet; the old familiar lay-out seems subtly changed. Maybe when he has been there a few years more it will seem as good as ever.

A fine columnist who has never moved away from his own newspaper but has been shunted about inside it rather too much is Geoffrey Smith, who has developed recontouring in print into a fine art. Fortunately for his fans, he has settled down in a regular spot in Section 3 of *The Sunday Times* decorated by an engraving of himself apparently disguised as a benign Doctor Johnson.

Sunday newspapers are the true haven of the columnist. In the same Section 3 there are at least another half dozen regular columnists — Norman Stone, Atticus, Paul Baker, Bryan Appleyard, Robert Harris and Susan Crossland. The *Observer* boasts Richard Ingrams, Michael Ignatieff and Alan Watkins in its main section, and is particularly strong in its



An opinion on everything: Bernard Levin is a model columnist

Review section, with Katherine Whitehorn and Sue Arnold. The *Sunday Telegraph* carries Christopher Booker, Mary Kenny and Mandrake. (I exclude Kenneth Rose as a social diarist.)

What is their value to an editor? First, if they are sufficiently compelling, they undoubtedly help to anchor readers to the newspaper. How often has one heard "I always read the (name your own) for (Bloggs's) column"? But to achieve that status the column must have been around for some time; readers do not make friends easily. Second, columnists can bring a broader perspective to a newspaper. If it is a Tory supporter, then dissident columnists may widen its appeal. After all, no editor can be entirely immune from the ruses of the opinion polls. Perhaps that is why the *Mail on Sunday* carries Julie Burchill, who seems to enjoy slugging people off, whatever they do. It was blondes on Sunday —

among them such "tragic, doomed blondes" as Mandy Smith and Margaret Thatcher.

Lack of established columnists is another hurdle for new newspapers to surmount. The *Independent on Sunday* brought in the civilised Neal Ascherson from the *Observer*. The *Sunday Correspondent* tried to grow its own, without much success.

In fact, most columnists invent themselves; they cannot be manufactured. Usually they should have a pretty good opinion of themselves. Modesty is of no value to a columnist. And they should have opinions on everything; they should never ever be short of something to say. Wit is desirable, but not absolutely essential. And they should know how to praise as well as to destroy. Above all they should write superbly well in their own particular tone of voice. If they have all these qualities, they might possibly join the half-dozen or so columnists whom editors are wise to cherish more than rubies.

Labour's last writes?

THERE was a journalist in Northern Ireland who grew tired of reporting the conflict and decided to set up an agency specialising in good news. Sadder, but wiser, he is now a civil servant.

The story is relevant. Today, Aims of Industry publishes a pamphlet questioning whether the days of labour correspondents are numbered. Most of these belong to the Labour and Industrial Correspondents Group, whose primary job is to report on trade unions.

Labour correspondents serve as an indicator to the industrial landscape of Britain. Their glory days coincided exactly with the period of greatest unrest. Michael Ivens, the director of Aims of Industry, suggests a better title for them would have been "strikes correspondents".

Thatcherism, and the advent of greater realism among union members, has led to a decline in bad news and, although there have been memorable exceptions, notably the miners' strike, the labour correspondent's place on page one is no longer assured.

Nick de Jongh, the director of external affairs for the Engineering Employers' Federation, says: "Labour correspondents are not held in universally high regard by industrialists. This may be unfair, but it is not surprising — much that appears under the labour correspondent's name is about problems, conflict and failure."

He believes, however, that the correspondents can survive if they report on "people" issues, with an emphasis on the environment, training, recruitment, skills and new work patterns. John Richards, the former chairman of the group, says disputes are no longer covered in depth, "or specialists from other disciplines, such as health, education, transport, home affairs, and so on, subsume employment issues in their articles".

He claims that although business, media and management journals recognise the upheavals going on in the employment world, these are largely ignored by Fleet Street. "Have the industrial correspondents unwittingly found themselves cast among the 'enemies within' with no place in the Thatcher revolution?" he asks.

TIM JONES

● The author is Employment Correspondent of The Times.

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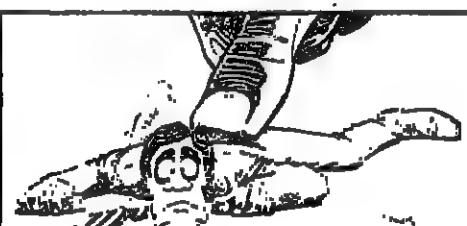
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Fertile women need not apply

Would you be sterilised to keep a job? In America, "foetal protection policies" demand proof of infertility. Susan Ellicott reports

Virginia Green is angry: eight years ago, Johnson Controls, America's leading car battery maker, pulled her and several other women off the factory floor because they were able to bear children. The company told them the move was designed to prevent the injury of unborn children of women likely to breathe particles of the lead used in making its products.

Mrs Green was aged 50 and had worked at the company's plant in Bennington, Vermont, for ten years. She had no plans for more children: Kelly, her daughter, was aged ten. But Johnson Controls demoted her and the other women from their relatively high-paying, skilled jobs unless they could provide medical proof of sterility.

Mrs Green asked the company to hold open her job for a few months while she looked into having her tubes tied. The company refused and she was put to work washing the respirators of the men alongside whom she had previously worked.

Today, she recalls how she was easily as capable as the men and was often called in to do overtime if one of them failed to show up at weekends. "I put up one hell of a fight and I still am doing," Mrs Green says. The women's cases are now before the US Supreme Court in Washington as part of a suit brought against Johnson Controls by the United Auto Workers' Union for denying women jobs in high-lead areas at its 15 battery factories unless they have a medical certificate of their infertility.

Johnson's female employees say they are being barred from opportunities open to men even if they have no intention of becoming pregnant. The company says it would be "morally reprehensible" knowingly to expose unborn children to the risks of lead poisoning. Short of monitoring the sex lives of its female employees — a measure, thankfully, dismissed as impractical — the company sees no other way of safeguarding the health of unborn babies whose mothers work in a factory where the level of lead in the air is sometimes so strong, despite \$15 million (£7.5 million) spent on improving safety over the past decade, that employees can taste it. The levels are not dangerous to adults, Johnson says, only to children and fetuses.

Beneath the lofty words, however, the argument boils down to a company's right to protect itself from lawsuits versus a woman's right to work. Should so-called "foetal protection policies" become a part of working life?

Summing up his dissent last year when a Chicago court upheld Johnson Controls' foetal protection policy, Judge Frank Easterbrook, a Reagan appointee generally considered a conservative, said: "No legal or ethical principle compels or allows Johnson to assume that women are less able than men to

make intelligent decisions about the welfare of the next generation." Neither, he added, should Johnson assume that "the interests of the next generation always trump the interests of living women and that the only acceptable level of risk is zero". He estimated that foetal protection policies could affect 20 million jobs, although business groups say the figure is excessive.

At least 15 large industrial and chemical businesses in the United States have such policies, including General Motors, Union Carbide, Gulf Oil and Dow Chemical. All are closely watching the Johnson case. Although only 12 of the 240 workers at the Bennington plant are female, Johnson says it is not biased against women — it just does not hire any who are fertile.

Denise Zutz, the director of Johnson's public relations, says the company's policy was designed by doctors, not lawyers, reflecting "our real motivation" to protect the health of unborn children.

"One of these aspects is liability," she acknowledges, noting the company must protect "the interests of its shareholders". Johnson operated a voluntary scheme for some time under which women planning to conceive transferred temporarily to jobs considered to have a low risk of lead contamination, but it adopted tighter rules after at least six women became pregnant anyway. The company says it needs the policy because most pregnancies are unplanned and many women do not realise they are pregnant until well into their first trimester — too late to save the foetus from harm at the most important stage of development. Critics of foetal protection policies say that companies are reacting to the fear of a lawsuit rather than defending themselves from reality: there has been no suit against a company for damaging a child before birth. Johnson says one of its employees gave birth to a child showing signs of mental retardation, although this was not necessarily linked to lead.

In case Johnson's policy seems far-fetched to non-Americans, Ms Zutz recounts a telephone call she received earlier this month from a nurse in Michigan who contracted hepatitis while working and pregnant. The woman miscarried but was barred from suing the hospital by a clause in her contract. The dead child, however, brought a case and won \$860,000 (£430,000) in compensation — left to its mother as next of kin. Michigan's state court upheld the decision.

"There is no practical way under the law today to prohibit either the mother or the child from suing the employer," Ms Zutz says. Making staff sign a waiver apparently means almost nothing.

Even though Johnson and some other companies say they do not encourage sterilisation, some women, such as Betty Riggs, consider they have little choice. Mrs



Sitting it out: Virginia Green, who was asked to prove her sterility, and union representative Joanne Leard

Riggs underwent sterilisation at the age of 26 to keep a former job at the lead-based pigments department of a factory run by American Cyanamid. She regrets her operation, but was trying to support elderly parents and a young son when her employer changed its hiring requirements in the late Seventies.

Although Johnson compensated Mrs Green for a drop in pay when her job was changed, she says she lost scope for promotion and overtime by having to move. Her daughter,

now aged 18, cannot work at Johnson under the present hiring policies. "There is something fishy in the woodpile," says Joanne Leard, a union health and safety representative at Johnson's plant in Bennington. "If they were as concerned as they say they are, then they should be as concerned for the men."

Johnson says it has seen no studies linking foetal damage to a man's exposure to lead. Women say that research has concentrated too much on the health effects of industrial jobs on their own sex.

In Bennington, a small town of 16,000 people, the case boils down to money. Johnson, which pays up to \$15 an hour for heavy jobs, provides some of the most lucrative work in a rural area where salaries are relatively low.

"Who wants to work in McDonald's for peanuts?" Mrs Leard asks. "That's the line if you just want to work while your kids are at school, but it's really no good if you want to pay the bills." The Supreme Court is expected to rule on the women's case next year.

BALANCING THE RISKS IN BRITAIN

THE HEALTH and safety of women employees in Britain can fall legally outside the sex discrimination laws. Employers can refuse to allow a woman to do a job if they consider it "necessary" in order to comply with the 1974 Health and Safety at Work Act. Other restrictions on women — including working with some dangerous substances, working at night and down mines — were removed by last year's Employment Act.

However, many people believe the legislation is a form of discrimination. Margaret Prosser, the national women's secretary of the Transport and General Workers' Union, points out that if lead is in the atmosphere, for example, it is hazardous to all workers, not only to women. She is also opposed to an EC directive which proposes that pregnant women should not be allowed to work at night. "That discussion should be about what effect night work has on all workers."

Pauline Matthews, the principal legal officer of the Equal Opportunities Commission, believes that the 1989 Employment Act "was not wholly good news... What the legislation doesn't look at is individual women and whether they intend to have children or not. We have always argued on what individual women want to do. The risk to the foetus is different from the risk to women's child-bearing capacity, which is much more serious."

The 1980 Control of Lead at Work Regulations

prohibit women workers from participating in particular processes and lay down the levels of lead to which they can be safely exposed — about half those allowed for men. Pregnant women who have been with a company for two years are entitled to ask for alternative employment if their job carries risks for their baby. The Maternity Alliance, a charity aimed at improving "the rights and services for mothers, fathers and babies", would like to see the time limit removed.

Dr Tony Fletcher, a lecturer in occupational epidemiology at Birmingham university, believes that the rules for women are "unevenly applied. Some women in low-paid work are excluded from jobs on the ground of risks to the foetus, while in other circumstances that argument is not used because the employers don't believe they can get men to do the work."

BRONWEN BERNARD, the health and safety officer for the National Union of Public Employees, says that offering alternative work is not always effective. She has come across incidents of pregnant hospital nurses preferring to risk the potential hazards of anaesthetic gases in operating theatres than what they consider to be the greater danger of heavy lifting on wards.

SALLY BROMPTON

Hero with a heart of ice

Sir Vivian Fuchs did not set out to be a famous explorer. But his search for scientific truth made him one anyway

Sir Vivian Fuchs, the scientist and Antarctic explorer, shuns any notion of himself as heroic adventurer, and has preferred not to seek firsts which smack of the Guinness Book of Records. "Not that I criticise that," he says, with a sharp look from beneath his bushy eyebrows. "I certainly don't deny enjoying the adventure."

At the age of 82 he has produced *A Time to Speak*, his autobiography, looking back on a life in which science has always taken first place, even on the great crossing of the Antarctic continent which he led and which, incidentally, was a first. "I've never wanted to imitate anybody. I have taken advice, but science has always been the objective."

Few heroic explorers, for example, would declare a strong interest in the pleistocene climatic variations and their effect upon the land and lacustrine fauna of the Rift Valley, which led Sir Vivian back to Africa on one of four expeditions as a Cambridge undergraduate and geology graduate.

The second world war effectively divided the heat from the cold in his career. In 1947 he became field commander of the Antarctic bases operated by the Falkland Islands Dependencies, forerunner of the British Antarctic Survey. After years of quiet research and scientific exploration he was appointed leader of the 1955-56 Commonwealth Trans-Antarctic Expedition, and the role of anonymous boffin ended.

As the tracked vehicles ground their way across the frozen continent from one direction a second team, led by Sir Edmund Hillary, set out on a couple of Ferguson farm tractors from Scott Base, more than 2,000 miles away on the opposite coast.

Having completed his task of setting up a supply depot 400 miles from the South Pole, Sir Edmund decided to make a dash to the Pole. "For the hell of it". In the eyes of the world the expedition became a race, despite the fact

that one "contender" was stopping at regular intervals and detonating seismic charges to determine the thickness of the ice, and carrying out a host of scientific experiments which eventually resulted in reports covering the region's geology, tides, meteorology and marine biology.

As it was, Sir Edmund's dash for the Pole meant he arrived there four days ahead of Sir Vivian. "I have never blamed him for what he did," Sir Vivian says. "It would have been like turning back from the south summit of Everest. We met up perfectly friendly; he shared my Snowcat on the journey back. Anyway, I'm not a chap who tends to have rows."

After his return to civilisation, a knighthood and all the accolades, Sir Vivian went back to surveying a continent that was beginning to attract strong political interest and acquire ecological importance. "It is a very specialised area and what can and cannot be done there needs to be understood very clearly. The Antarctic is the clean recipient of everything that comes out of the atmosphere, from volcanic dust to whatever the human race puts up."

Those who care for the region's future would prefer to see it kept in its pristine state, but Sir Vivian fears the more likely outcome will be politicians yielding to international commercial pressure. For that reason he hopes that the Antarctic Treaty, imminently due for renewal, will never be relegated "to the label of the United Nations".

"The region needs to be kept in the hands of the treaty nations, which now number 34 or 35. Most countries feel that if there is something to be had from Antarctica they want a stake in it, but let them sign on the dotted line, undertaking that they will do no harm."

RONALD FAUX

A Time to Speak is published tomorrow by Anthony Nelson (£16.95).

STEPHEN MARKESON



Sir Vivian: "Science has always been the objective"

TLS

THE TIMES LITERARY SUPPLEMENT

"At a time when world leaders are threatening war crimes trials against the Iraqis for their rape of Kuwait, it is surely appropriate that thought should be given to bringing the Khmer Rouge leadership to belated justice to answer for their crimes against humanity."

Peter Carey
in the TLS this Friday

Plus: Hilary Spurling's Life of Paul Scott

& BRIEFLY

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FOR those who do not find ironing therapeutic, and who would like to cut their ironing time in half, a Cornish company has produced the Gemini Clothescare system. A heating element in the ironing board, an all-British design, contains a "docking system" for a cordless iron. Only when the iron is pressed over the board does the system come into effect; otherwise the board remains cool. Gemini claims its system halves ironing time and therefore the amount of electricity used. It costs £139.95 from stockists as diverse as Argos and Harrods, or by direct mail. For an order form contact Gemini Customer Service at Trelwenny

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Doggerel day

Following in the footsteps of Barbara Bush's prolific pet dog, Millie, who recently published her memoirs, is Abigail, the more cavalier and less prosaic spaniel belonging to the former D'Oyly Carte singer Maureen Melvin. Abigail, who was a guest on Derek Jameson's radio show this week, will be signing — or possibly stamping — copies of her poetry book *Paws for Thought* (Chapman, £4.95) at Harrods on Saturday. Perhaps the publishers' intentions in offering this work can be divined in Abigail's seasonal warning: "You're going to buy a Christmas dog! Please pause before you do. For Christmas is a troubled time/For dogs both old and new..."

Deathly disc

Those of unsound mind may appreciate the latest sound-effect CD from BBC records, in time to accompany Halloween festivities comes *The Essential Death and Horror Compact Disc* (£11.99 from most record shops), containing such sounds as "execution and torture, gravedigging, stake driven through heart, nails hammered into flesh and tongue pulled out". Perhaps BBC records should make contact with the makers of Dos Equis beer, who are "delighted to bring a glimpse of Mexican culture to the UK" by inviting us to celebrate the ancient Mexican Day of the Dead on Friday. The company is supplying bars and restaurants in central London with black candles. Whether this reaches the parts Heineken does not remain to be seen.

VICTORIA MCKEE

THE TIMES

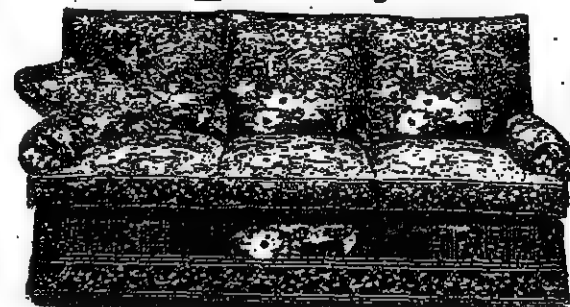
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الحل في اليد

Triumph of Irishness

THE Irish novelist and poet Dermot Bolger has won the Samuel Beckett Award 1989 for the best first stage play performed in 1989. His play, *The Lantern for Arthur Cleary* — a somewhat wry, Irish look at Irishness — was first seen at the Dublin Theatre Festival. It was staged earlier this month at the Riverside Studios in Hammersmith. The Beckett Award for the best first television play transmitted in 1989 is jointly shared by Bryan Elsey for *Govan Ghost Story* (BBC 1) and Jane Rogers for *Dawn and the Cadillacs* (Channel 4). Faber and Faber, Channel Four and the Royal Court Theatre sponsor the awards: the winners receive £1,000 each.

Platform soul

BRITISH Rail continues its noble attempts to inject a little improving culture into the rush-hour scene. A permanent display of original prints by well-known Scottish artists has now appeared on the platforms of Edinburgh's Haymarket Station. It is a joint venture between ScotRail and the National Galleries of Scotland; the aim is to encourage passengers to make the 20-minute walk to the Gallery of Modern Art. Cynics, however, wonder whether the prints will survive long into the football season.

Good connection

MOST unlikely sponsorship of the year: the Almeida Theatre, the tiny Islington venue best-known for its avant-garde happenings, has attracted sponsorship from AT&T, the American telecommunications giant. AT&T is probably the largest corporate contributor to theatre in the United States, but its partnership with the Almeida will be its first British venture. It will enable the Almeida to mount a spring season that includes Diana Rigg in Dryden's *All for Love*.

Last chance

AFTER Keith Michell, Derek Jacobi and on screen, Steve Martin, it has been the turn of Edward Fetherbridge to bring his subtle interpretation to the role of Cyrano de Bergerac. Tickets for the final performances — at the Greenwhich Theatre (081-838 7755) until Saturday — are hard to come by, but Fetherbridge's portrayal of heroic self-denial makes the effort worthwhile.

PHOTOGRAPHY

An elusive shutterfly

David Bailey, Sixties archetype of the photographer as celebrity, tells Lauris Morgan-Griffiths about his continuing aspirations as a film maker and painter

David Bailey hates being interviewed because he never recognises himself in print. "Maybe I'm not what I think I am, and journalists see who I am, and write about the person I am but I don't like it." Perfectly understandable if you are not David Bailey, unreasonable if you are. He transmits certain signals and then, just in case they are taken too seriously, he deflects them: he evokes a semi-literate East Ham lad, but then is quick to reveal his intellectual side, spicing his conversation with references to Proust, Chekhov and Dr Johnson.

He is bear-like now with his rounded waist and grizzled growth around the chin. Initially he seems gruff, maybe even slightly nervous, but from long experience he knows how to be charming, and is quick to find humour. An infectious laugh punctuates many of his statements, particularly when he feels he could be accused of pretension or of taking himself too seriously. His studio, bare except for a few of his own paintings and a sofa and chairs, is in a normally quiet mews. But the road outside is being ravaged by a mechanical digger, and the parrot in the corner is quiet except for an occasional telephone impersonation.

Legend surrounds the man: of histrionics during his fashion shoots, for instance. But with rapt innocence he tries to squash them. "I used to think fashion was a bit silly. I wouldn't think it was worth making someone cry over a frock." However, a French company recently complained that Bailey could not have been interested in their product because he had not "screamed or sacked anyone". Bailey chuckles at that memory. But these stories, echoing into the 1990s, originated somewhere.

Fashion photography gave Bailey the chance to make his mark and produce memorable images. He was always more "interested in what was in the fashion" and focused on character models such as Anjelica Huston, Penelope Tree and Mariella Berenson. Now he feels there is no longer the same scope. He is scathing about magazines that seem to want only throwaway images. So photographers are picked up, taken to the bosom of fashion editors, and summarily dropped. "The Warhol maxim will have to be rewritten as 'famous for 15 seconds'." He thinks that serious photographers today aim their work at gallery walls, instead.

Commercials are his business today. They make money, if not household names. Bailey has directed hundreds of commercials over the past two decades, but he is known mainly for the Greenpeace ad — a sophisticated fashion scene suddenly thrown into bloody mayhem — and the lovely Volkswagen girl. Just as he dismissed fashion as the prime objective because "I always felt I was taking portraits", so he dismisses commercials.

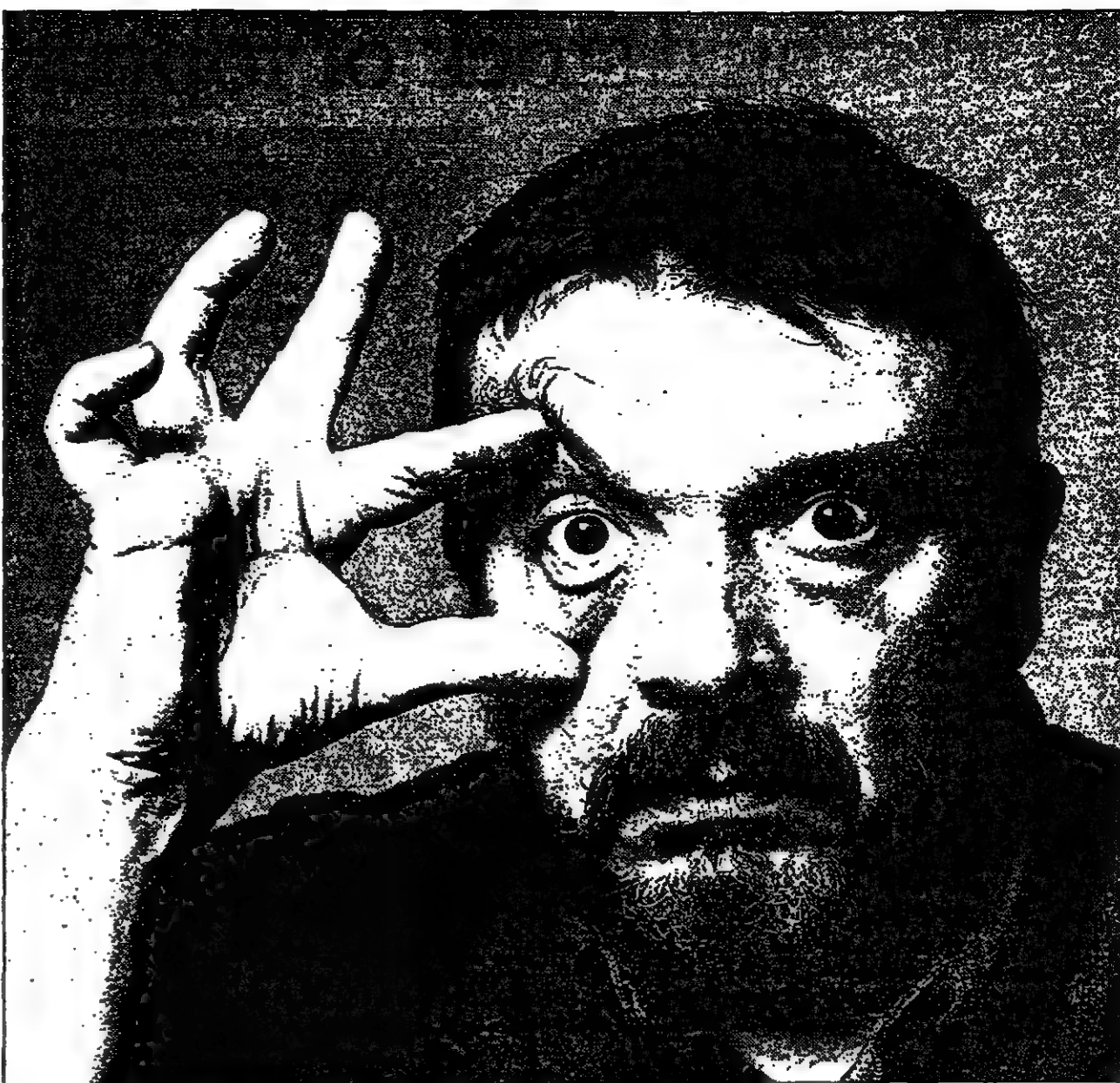
On the other hand, he loves film — though, here again, some intellectual ambivalence can be detected. He says his favourite films are *It's a Wonderful Life* and *Bambi* — the first film he ever saw. Yet his favourite directors are Coppola, Scorsese, Truffaut and Bertolucci, although the American director he relates most to is David Lynch because of his "European view of America". He regrets he has not yet made a feature film, and is now pressing hard to make his first. He has two projects, one of which he hopes will make it to the screen next year.

Bailey clearly enjoys making films and working with a team. Surprisingly, he finds "stills photography much more frustrating and much more difficult. You can cheat on painting and live action but on a still it's there, and once you've done it you just have to live with it. On a film there are 24 frames per second. Jean-Luc Godard said 'movies are 23 times easier than stills'."

But Bailey has not by any means left photography behind. His latest exhibition lays out his current creative thinking. There are portraits of his wife, Catherine Dyer, and mixed-media collages combining photography (playful self-portraits, the Mona Lisa, the natural world and his wife) and painting (photographs distorted by paint, and fresh images of colourful, primitive figures).

And there is one image that repeats itself: a 1911 photograph of a woman in Victorian dress holding a camera. Bailey acquired it in a job lot with a photograph he had brought from Sotheby's. Something about her has caught his imagination and he has invented a mythic life. The collages follow Bailey's eccentric fantasy of her photographing the last tattooed man in Honolulu and dying in childbirth.

He is not against manipulating photographs. He discovered the effect when working with easily scratchable, Polaroid film. He liked the random effect, so



Bailey by Bailey: a recent self-portrait, included in the photographer's latest exhibition

experimented by putting negatives in with salt and water and it ended up Miro-esque. Then he added some paint effects. "I don't think it's important. It's like a kind of sophisticated primitive in a way. I don't claim it to be great art."

Then Bailey's worm turns. He wants to make films, but is it art? He professes not to care if people like his personal photographs or paintings, but he does care about art. He launches into a dissertation about art and non-art and the artistic merits of film against painting and photography. Film "doesn't have the same artistic thing as a painting or a photograph. You can't hang a movie on the wall, you can't keep looking at a movie. I guess a painting or photograph less your imagination run wild, whereas a film explains everything for you. That's why I think photography and painting, and music maybe, are more artistic than writing or film making."

Known for his liaisons with beautiful women as much as his photography back in the 1960s, he now feels that a new romantic phase has heralded an upsurge of creative energy and experimentation. His photographs of his wife Catherine Dyer show a changed attitude to women. "Women change the way you think. I photograph her the whole time without make-up. I think she is the most beautiful woman I've been with, but I don't try to make her look beautiful." Now he takes the same approach to photographing women as he would to men: showing them as they really are. However, he thinks Christine Keeler was probably a little shocked by the results.

Picasso was probably the single greatest creative influence on Bailey: he says that seeing a Picasso painting, at the age of 16, changed his life. He named his daughter Paloma "as a sign of respect", and he would like to make a film of Picasso with

Jack Nicholson. "Nobody can actually be Picasso, but Brando could have done it and I think Jack can. It would be like Picasso painting Gertrude Stein, who complained that 'I don't look like this'. Picasso said: 'you will'."

Jack Nicholson is one of his greatest friends. Bailey calls the two of them the "new old: the old that are still young". He professes never to want to give up on life; he would like to reach his creative maturity, and he thinks Picasso's best work was in his last ten years. "I think when I'm 90 I'll just be getting smart enough to do something else. I'd like to have been a great gardener, a great painter, a great photographer and a great film maker". Only time — four decades — will tell.

David Bailey is at Hamilton's, 13 Curlew Place, London W1, from Monday November 5 to November 30.

POPULAR MUSIC

To the heart

Singer Dionne Warwick, in London for two Cole Porter concerts, talks to Tony Patrick

Dionne Warwick and Cole Porter: two class acts, if not two immediately associated in the public mind. Warwick is a singer completing her third decade at or near the top of her profession; Porter was one of popular music's most gifted songwriters, whose centenary year is about to begin. By some remarkable coincidence, she has recorded an album of his songs, and is in London for two concerts with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra to promote same.

Warwick is identified, indelibly, with the records she made between 1962 and 1969 with the writing duo Burt Bacharach and Hal David. Such pop classics as "Anyone who had a Heart", "Don't make me over", "Walk on By" and "A House is Not a Home" are seen by many as having held aloft the torch of craftsmanship in song at a time when the world was otherwise in thrall to guitar-bass-drums-and-long-hair.

"Porter was not my idea," she said this week. "Clive Davis [the head of her record company] surprised me with it. He took time to convince me that it was a logical next step at this stage, away from contemporary material."

Although I had not previously recorded any Porter songs, as the project developed — and it took two years altogether — I discovered that in a way I had all along been singing material which was preparing me for it. Musically, the intervals and phrasing of what I was doing right at the beginning, with Bacharach, were similar.

Lyrical, although Porter had much greater emphasis on rhyme and much of his work is tongue-in-cheek, it is totally geared to the heart, which is as good a description of Hal David's lyrics as you could want.

Warwick, whose commitment to fund-raising and promotional work for sickle-cell anaemia, research and Aids-related charities is well documented, is a matter-of-fact, clear-eyed optimist by nature, which may account for some of the empathy she displays with Porter's songs. Not above sentimentality on occasion, his work often has an astringency and directness about it which are also echoed in Bacharach and David.

Ella Fitzgerald and Sarah Vaughan recorded Porter collections which have almost sacred status: was Warwick intimidated by these and other previous illustrious interpreters? "I can honestly say I was not, because I made no attempt to imitate or reproduce what somebody else had done. That would have been suicidal. I did it the best way I could, and then sent copies to some of the people whose interpretations are well known and whose opinions I respect. I am very glad to say that they responded favourably." Proof of this, in the form of comments by Frank Sinatra and Lena Horne, can be found in the liner notes.

At the Albert Hall with the singer and the orchestra will be her own musicians: conductor Joe Kloess, keyboards player Rob Sherrock, drummer Dennis Allen, guitarist Neil Anzalone, and bass-



Dionne Warwick: her matter-of-fact optimism suits Porter

player Danny De Moraes, with her cousins Myrna Smith and Felicia Moss providing back-up vocals. It sounds as though she must tour constantly to keep them in business. "After 28 years, honey, I figure I have toured. I have done my share. But we do go out 20 or 25 weeks a year."

What next? "I still want the full set. Grammy jobs already have more than one, Oscar and Tony, before I quit." Her only film role, in *Renato*, with Burt Reynolds and Liza Minnelli, was on British television last week: "Blink and you missed me, right? I want more."

What prospect is there of her qualifying for a Tony? "We are in discussion with the Nederlandse group about a Broadway show. It was suggested by a young man from Los Angeles, Stephen Simon, a dancer/choreographer now turned director. He has something innovative and exciting in mind, not a narrative or book show, but something I think entirely new. They are ready to go with it right now, but I cannot just put the rest of my life on hold."

Dionne Warwick appears with the Royal Philharmonic at the Albert Hall, London SW7 (071-589 8212) tonight and tomorrow.

WHITBREAD BOOK OF THE YEAR

Real life, real literature?

Less than a week to go before the Whitbread Book of the Year awards: the literary world holds its breath, even if nobody else does. Tomorrow sees the formal announcement of the biography short-list. The fuss over whether or not A.S. Byatt will walk off with the fiction prize, and another down-payment on a swimming pool, obscures the fact that the Whitbread also covers biography, children's fiction, first novels and poetry.

The biography shortlist is *The King's Cardinal: The Rise and Fall of Thomas Wolsey* by Peter Gwynn (Barrie & Jenkins); *Paul Scott: A Life by Hilary Spurling* (Hutchinson); *A.A. Milne: His Life by Ann Thwaite* (Faber); and *Tom Driberg: His Life and In-discretions* by Francis Wheen (Chatto). There is no Peter Ackroyd. "I've never seen a shortlist that I didn't think was odd," says Philip Howard, the literary editor of *The Times*. "This one is very odd."

Apart from Ackroyd's *Dickens*, Howard offers alternatives including Ronald Hayman's study of Proust, Noël Annan's memoir, *Our Age*, and Philip Ziegler's life of Edward VIII.

That alternative list alone shows the depth of quality in the biography market. Some would argue that biographies are overtaking novels as the real literature of the age. A glance through past Whitbread winners provides evidence. Of the fiction and biography winners in 1988, for instance, which is likely to be the more enduring work: *The Satanic Verses* or A.N. Wilson's life of Tolstoy? And last year: Richard Holmes's *Coleridge: Early Visions* versus *The Chrysalis Wedding* by Lindsay Clarke?

Clive Davis on the debate over novels versus biographies

A similar debate has been going on in the United States. Tom Wolfe waded in last year with an essay which argued that "serious" American fiction had grown so arid and inward-looking that the real work was being done by non-fiction writers, journalists and "genre" authors such as John Le Carré and Joseph Wambaugh. "Any literary person who is willing to look back over the American literary terrain of the past 25 years — look back candidly, in the solitude of the study — will admit that in at least four years out of five, the best non-fiction books have been better literature than the most highly praised books of fiction."

Many would agree on the general point. Paul Fussell, who has written on figures as diverse as George Orwell and Samuel Johnson, has a low opinion of the recent Booker list. "They were all very respectable but dull. I didn't feel compelled to read a single one. There's a shortage of novelists who can work on a large canvas. The large novels we do get are the 900-page blockbusters, written by Danielle Steele for typists."

As if to press home Wolfe's point, the most eagerly-awaited blockbuster of the year in the US was not a novel, but a biography: *The Years of Lyndon Johnson*. The author, Robert Caro, is a former investigative reporter. He started on the project 15 years ago; the latest instalment, *Means of Ascent*, is the second of four

volumes. Caro estimates that it will take ten years to finish. Most critics agree that he has set new standards in political biography.

His portrait of LBJ has grown into a portrait of 20th-century America. Written in majestic prose, the two volumes are as hypnotic as an epic novel. During the long haul, Caro intriguingly admits to a new-found passion for the Victorian ambience of the Palliser novels. He started with *The Prime Minister*, two years ago: "It's the best book about personalities in politics that I've ever read. I'd like to be able to capture the mood and atmosphere of political life as Trollope did."

Another American observer, Samuel Hynes — author of the recently-published cultural overview, *A War Imagined* — agrees that political biography and memoirs could well be the most compelling form of modern literature. "It isn't non-fiction or biography in general that's catching the attention of readers. I think it's the revelations of politicians' lives. Lyndon Johnson's world has more incident and plotting in it than all the novels on the Booker short-list put together. And where else would you find a fictional story as relentlessly raucous as Tom Driberg's? Or as comic as Tony Benn's?"

If, like Paul Fussell, you are a Professor of English, this might seem a depressing state of affairs. Fussell thinks not: "I regard as literature any work that will last the test of time. The life of Johnson is literature, so are Edmund Burke's speeches. Literature does not have to be fiction."

The Whitbread Book of the Year award winners will be announced on Tuesday.

TELEVISION

Chilled and charmed by turns

TWO documentaries last night came to the conclusion, over their closing titles, that American justice works in mysterious ways. For *Critical Eye* (Channel 4), *Dark Passage* was a terrifying confession to camera by Cesar Jova Martinez of his work as a killer and torturer for the death squads of El Salvador, where 35,000 civilians have met with sudden demise in the past few years.

Martinez also related in detail the involvement of American advisers in the killings, charges that were explored by Allan Frankovich's film and appeared far from unlikely. Martinez has now been arrested in the United States on immigration charges and is threatened with return to El Salvador, where he may well be killed.

On ITV, Nixon: *The Fall*

ended the best documentary series of the year with an equally chilling credit-title. It said that, of all the Watergate villains, Nixon alone got off with an absolute pardon. The excellence of this Thames co-production has been in telling the Nixon story as a post-war history of the United States itself. Far from the overblown journalistic romanticism of *All the President's Men*, this was a cooler look at Watergate as the inevitable conclusion to his career, finding Nixon, even at the last, unable to admit that he made any mistake save that of being found out.

All the old witnesses came back into the dock, most of them vastly richer and sleeker for their post-prison years on the American lecture circuit, and snug about the still greater corruption of Iran.

John Dean, the original squealer, noted that Nixon was not the inventor of political sin in the White House. He was, however, the first president to go on television and announce that he was not a crook.

This is proving a splendid week for fancies and foodies. On Saturday there was Tom Vernon puffing his way around Argentina on a bicycle. Sunday brought the haunted-house menus at The Green Man, and on Monday, Jonathan Meades started *Abroad in Britain*, yet another of those BBC 2 series in which eccentric presenters set off in search of proof that there are others still more quaintly dotty than themselves. The usual casting for this role is either a post-modernist writer or the aristocratic scion of some ancient and crumbling stately home,

but in Meades there is something new. Meades potted around the frontier country of the Shropshire border looking at pre-war shanty towns which have become architectural monuments to chaotic improvisation. His thesis, delivered with a youthful and portly John Beljeman, was that with the passing of Aertex shirts and Elsan lavatories something has gone out of the English way of life.

David Turnbull, Meades's director, has an equally sharp eye for the truly eccentric: at one point his presenter was rebuking on about social trends while two people stood silent and unexplained in the background, holding a large stuffed fish in a glass case.

SHERIDAN MORLEY

2 CR5 Lithium Camera Batteries RECALL

Regrettably it has been discovered that a limited number of Maxell's CR5 lithium batteries produced before December 1989 have caused minor overheating in the cameras they have been placed in.

Maxell would like to apologise for this unfortunate situation and ensure all their customers the problem has been rectified for the future.

The batteries concerned have two product numbers, either starting with an 'S' or 'T'. If you have any in your possession, please call our Hotline on 081-207 1997 during normal working hours from Monday to Friday, when you will receive information on how to obtain your free replacement battery.

All Maxell battery users should remain confident that the next Maxell product they buy will be produced to an even higher standard of quality than is already specified.

Hitachi Maxell, Ltd. Japan



Sir Michael Tippett's THE MASK OF TIME

is performed by the BBC Symphony Orchestra, conductor Andrew Davis, with the BBC Singers and BBC Symphony Chorus, in the Royal Festival Hall, Saturday 3 November, at 7.30pm. Soloists: Faye Robinson, Felicity Palmer, Robert Tear, John Cheek. Pre-concert talk 6.15pm with Sir Michael Tippett.

Phone 071-928 8800 for tickets (£3.50-£16.00) 071-927 4714 for further information

BBC

Jumbled stock of foppery

THEATRE

The Country Wife

King's, Edinburgh

WILLIAM Wycherley's *The Country Wife* is one of the glories of the Restoration stage. It has wit, manners and honesty, and though written in the 1670s, it discusses women's sexuality with a frankness which was unthinkable again until the 1970s. It is also a sharp-edged comedy which conceals weighty matters behind a mask of manners, where looks and gestures matter as much as words. The play was written for a coterie audience of the rich and privileged. Though it reflects their lives, it is steeled and fustian about all human behaviour.

Not that much of this could be gathered from Hugh Hodgart's new production for Edinburgh's Royal Lyceum Company. Billed inately as "a comedy of sex and shopping", Hodgart and his designer Gregory Smith have chosen to set the play in a tacky, timeless shopping mall supposed to be Covent Garden. It does not work. The set tries to be what those in the know call eclectically post modern and ends up a mess. Rubens-esque nudes on the walls clash with such kitsch artefacts as a life-size stag candelabra. The jumble of styles used, from the art deco calves on the doors to the Llanor furniture means the leaden attempts to satirise con-

spicuous consumption mis-fire because it is never made obvious whether they are meant to be a joke.

This complete unease as to the style of the piece is reflected in the acting and costumes. Christopher Gee as Sparkish looks like a cross between Napoleon III and Bett Lynch and acts like Douglas Byng. Old Lady Squeamish looks Victorian. Lucy the maid like a smart Parisian concierge. Robin Sneller plays Harcourt like Douglas Fairbanks Jr, and Steve Owen as Quack seems to have strayed in from a 1950s Hammer Horror film. When performances do spark into life as with Michael Roberts and Donna Wilson as the Pinchwife, this is usually at the expense of the play. Roberts plays as though he were Alf Garnett and though this makes him dangerous, it also makes a nonsense of his one-time role as Gallant.

There is no sense of the play reflecting or speaking to any coherent society. The production gives us tricks instead of style and mugging instead of wit. The indestructible "china" scene may still work, but that is about all. The pivotal scene in which Lady Fidget unmasks to the supposedly imposter Horner the endless wiles women use to satisfy their desires and preserve their honour is ridiculously staged in suspender. I could go on, but suffice it to say the pleasures of this production are few.

ALASDAIR CAMERON



The Country Wife: uneasy style of acting and costume

that has ever been written. If years of theatre-going offer any ground rules, the following stands top of the list. Suspect any production set in a circus or introduced by a ringmaster. Buchner's *Woyzeck* includes no ringmaster in its cast but the NCTC production brings one on, white-faced, cold-eyed, merciless smile and all, presumably to identify - but unnecessarily - the hero as performing animal and freak.

Insofar as this defines the character of *Woyzeck*, the play itself will do so, though in common with most productions the hero and his Marie are here the only characters presented as people you might pass without comment in the street. The pop-eyed Captain and strutting Drum Major are the freaks, though even they appear normal beside the Doctor, here called the Professor, and played as a twitching mad scientist by a Billy Bunter nightmare.

The frightfulness of *Woyzeck's*

tormentors includes grim comedy but any suggestion of silliness and the tragedy starts caving in. Mistakenly, the company bills its production as a "tragic-comedy". Next year *King Lear* as tragic-farce.

Peter Bloore directs his own adaptation, omitting many supporting characters and implying, absolutely contrary to Buchner's text, that *Woyzeck* stabs Marie (and up between her legs) with a knife that belongs to the Drum Major. Sexual inadequacy is not a main issue in the play.

Isoper Britton's doubled, ordinary face communicates the bafflement of a thinking underdog; his confusion beside Marie's corpse, re-arranging her limbs and hair, is sharply poignant.

Elsewhere the cluster of cross-lit actors that Bloore turns into a dizzy carousel suggests an imaginative director in the making. But no more comic tragedies, please.

JEREMY KINGSTON

THEATRE

Woyzeck

Jacksons Lane Centre, Highgate

EVERY fringe company has to put on one production of Buchner's play, just to acquire the basic street cred. *The Woyzeck* is another vital item and, sure enough, the grandly named New Classical Theatre Company lists that in its CV, along with a more original choice, Ben Jonson's *Sejourn*.

Having now got it, *Woyzeck* out of its system, further exploration of lesser-known plays by Jonson and others of that kidney would be a useful act. *Woyzeck* pops up all the time. Every company has a *Woyzeck* in it, just as every man is supposed to have a book in him. Better to choose famous but rarely done works from the Classical repertoire which, if it includes the very un-Classical Buchner, must surely include everything



An un-Classical scene from Buchner's *Woyzeck*

DANCE

Elite Synopses

Covent Garden

THIS is one of Kenneth MacMillan's most popular ballets, and it is surprising that there have been only 80 performances at the Royal Opera House. But that does, at least, represent a fairly consistent presence in the repertoire since its 1974 premiere, and there have been many more performances outside London: Birmingham Royal Ballet gives it again this month.

The cast which the Royal Ballet used for *Elite Synopses* had used for *Elite* in the lead, on her brightest form all through, dancing with beautiful line and timing, investing it all with a sunny, smiling ease. She had a sunny partner in Bruce Sansom, who moved with a smooth sharpness to match hers. The immensely complicated lifts brought a tricky moment near the beginning, but once they had successfully negotiated that, the rest of their double work went well.

The other two main duets were also particularly well done. Viviana Durante managed to look slightly disreputable in the "Goi-

den Hours" number (it is not clear where the credit must go, to her wild hairstyle or her shy grin). That and a notably sharp-edged, at times almost satirical, manner from her and Stuart Cassidy avoided the cute cynicism which often infects this dance.

In the "Alaskan Rag" also, Jonathan Burrows brought an attractively unsentimental manner to the jokes about a man trying to manipulate a partner much taller than himself, while Elizabeth McGorian endured every indignity with smiling calm. Philip Gammon and his on-stage rumage band contributed to the liveliness of the ensembles with their infectious ebullient playing of the dozen catchy numbers by Scott Joplin and his contemporaries. However, the confident gaudiness of Ian Spurling's costumes is never going to reconcile this spectator to their facetiousness.

The programme also featured two splendid duets from last season: Ralph Koltai's moving spheres for *The Planets*, and the late Stephen Measha's many doors and lights for *Enclosure*. Richard Bernas conducted Holst and Berg to accompany them, and some good dancers worked away furiously, though with limited effect.

JOHN PERCIVAL

CONCERT

LP/Rizzi

Festival Hall

AS IF he did not have troubles enough already, Klaus Tennstedt, the conductor laureate of the London Philharmonic, has now been diagnosed as diabetic. As a result, we were deprived once again of his insights into a programme consisting of Schubert's "Unfinished" Symphony and Mahler's Fourth. However, the audience was fortunate to have as his replacement Carlo Rizzi, a young Italian conductor who is rapidly making a name for himself, chiefly in opera.

The opening phrases of his "Unfinished" in the lower strings, hushed and drawn out, immediately commanded attention. Then the repeated notes of the violins wove a strange spell: instead of a flurry of activity they suggested a slow-motion image of movement seen from a distance.

Just as the audience was beginning to wonder how such suspended motion could be reconciled with the dynamic conflicts of sonata form, it was confronted with a series of abrupt gestures whose forcefulness was accentuated by the

contrast with what had gone before. The rest of the movement was a fascinating resolution of the tensions generated at the interface of stasis and dynamism.

For all the apparent restraint of the opening, it was essentially not a Classical account of the symphony, but one alive to its Romantic impulses. There may have been just a touch of self-indulgence in all this, but in the face of such a strongly characterised and motivated reading, who could complain?

The Mahler immediately proclaimed a similarly authoritative interpreter. The Fourth is not haunted by the psychological traumas of most of the other Mahler symphonies, but Rizzi explored what is still a richly varied emotional vein, drawing sweet, well-tuned tones from members of the LP, in good form, and launching generous outpourings of sound at climactic points.

Bravely taking a seat next to the bass drum and cymbals, Felicity Lott beautifully invoked the angelic voices and heavenly pleasures of the *Unfinished* song that forms the last movement.

I wish Tennstedt a speedy recovery, but also hope we will be hearing more of Rizzi.

BARRY MILLINGTON

NEW RELEASES

♦ **BETSY'S WEDDING** (15): Alan Alda's uneven but engaging comedy about premarital ritual, with Mandy Patinkin as the bride's father, is a welcome change of pace. Attractive performances and a notable cast by Anthony LaPaglia. (Cannon Home Video, 071-352 5085).
♦ **BEYONCÉ** (15): Beyoncé's debut film, a musical, is a welcome change of pace. Attractive performances and a notable cast by Anthony LaPaglia. (Cannon Home Video, 071-352 5085).
♦ **GOOD FELLAS** (18): Martin Scorsese's epic crime drama from 1990, following the fortunes of a mother and her son in the New York underworld, is a welcome change of pace. Attractive performances and a notable cast by Anthony LaPaglia. (Cannon Home Video, 071-352 5085).

♦ **A SHOCK TO THE SYSTEM** (15): Would-be black comedy about a woman who extracts full revenge at work and home. With Elizabeth McGovern, Peter Riegert, director, Jan Epley. (Cannon Home Video, 071-352 5085).
♦ **THE ENLIGHTENMENT** (15): A historical drama about a woman who extracts full revenge at work and home. With Elizabeth McGovern, Peter Riegert, director, Jan Epley. (Cannon Home Video, 071-352 5085).

CURRENT

♦ **AN ANGEL AT MY TABLE** (15): Jane Campion's excellent film about the New Zealand writer Janet Frame, originally a TV mini-series, but now a feature film. (Cannon Home Video, 071-352 5085).
♦ **THE ATLANTIC** (15): Jean YVES's historical drama about a woman who extracts full revenge at work and home. With Elizabeth McGovern, Peter Riegert, director, Jan Epley. (Cannon Home Video, 071-352 5085).

♦ **THE ENLIGHTENMENT** (15): A historical drama about a woman who extracts full revenge at work and home. With Elizabeth McGovern, Peter Riegert, director, Jan Epley. (Cannon Home Video, 071-352 5085).
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CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and (where indicated) on release across the country.

♦ **BIRD ON A WIRE** (12): Empty-headed chase movie, with only Mel Gibson and Goldie Hawn's star power to pull it through. (Cannon Home Video, 071-352 5085).
♦ **CADILLAC MAN** (15): Rambo-style action vehicle for Sylvester Stallone, with a slow-witted, cuckolded husband (Lynne Collins) as his enemy. (Cannon Home Video, 071-352 5085).
♦ **CRIMES AND MISDEMEANORS** (15): Woody Allen's amusing portrait of a woman who extracts full revenge at work and home. With Elizabeth McGovern, Peter Riegert, director, Jan Epley. (Cannon Home Video, 071-352 5085).

THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of current theatre in London

♦ **House full, returns only**
♦ **Some seats available**
♦ **Seats at all prices**

♦ **UNDERGROUND** (15): A historical drama about a woman who extracts full revenge at work and home. With Elizabeth McGovern, Peter Riegert, director, Jan Epley. (Cannon Home Video, 071-352 5085).
♦ **THE ATLANTIC** (15): Jean YVES's historical drama about a woman who extracts full revenge at work and home. With Elizabeth McGovern, Peter Riegert, director, Jan Epley. (Cannon Home Video, 071-352 5085).

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♦ **I LOVE YOU TO DEATH** (15): Sinden, backed by comedy director Lawrence Kasper, is a comedy about a woman who extracts full revenge at work and home. With Elizabeth McGovern, Peter Riegert, director, Jan Epley. (Cannon Home Video, 071-352 5085).
♦ **THE MATCH FACTORY GIRL** (15): A historical drama about a woman who extracts full revenge at work and home. With Elizabeth McGovern, Peter Riegert, director, Jan Epley. (Cannon Home Video, 071-352 5085).
♦ **THE MUSIC TEACHER** (15): A historical drama about a woman who extracts full revenge at work and home. With Elizabeth McGovern, Peter Riegert, director, Jan Epley. (Cannon Home Video, 071-352 5085).

TODAY'S EVENTS

Concerts by Richard Briers, Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, London WC2 071 352 5085.

♦ **THE ATLANTIC** (15): Jean YVES's historical drama about a woman who extracts full revenge at work and home. With Elizabeth McGovern, Peter Riegert, director, Jan Epley. (Cannon Home Video, 071-352 5085).
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WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 22

URKE
(a) An obsolete variant and alternative spelling of *urk*, perhaps, but not very persuasive, from the Old Norse *urka* work; *The Paston Letters* "I am urke of variances".

GANISTER
(c) A hard, close-grained siliceous stone, found in the Lower Cretaceous of Northern England, characteristically gritty and unsmooth. Yorkshire dialect: "Alderman Clark noticed among broken ganister what seemed a curious stone".

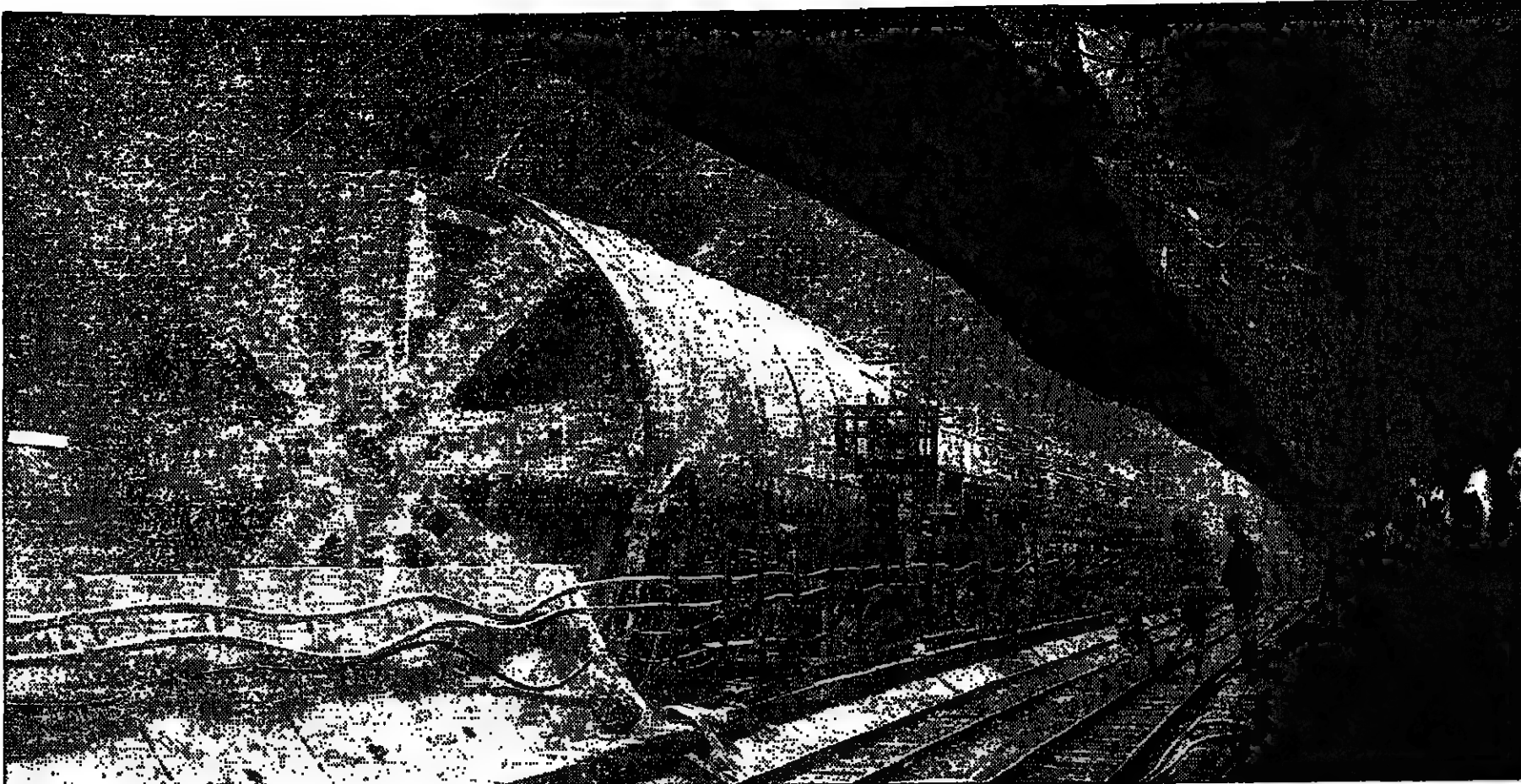
HANPSTEADS
(a) The tenth, plural only, modern Cockney and pseudo-Cockney rhymer, rhyming slang for the gashers and sausage-grinders: "Ere you go, luv, dey 'av' hanpsteads in it, and you wot 'av' dey 'av' fillings left in yer 'ead".

INANITION
(a) A starved condition, a wasting away due to malnutrition, from the Latin *inanitudo*: "Not only must he contend with sun, sandflies, dysentery and fever, but with inanition as well. The Nuns have apparently decided to put him on a stringent diet".

WINNING MOVIE

By Raymond Rance, *Cine* Correspondent

THE MYSTERY OF IRMA VEP
Directed by Milos Forman
Czechoslovakia, 1989
100 mins. 12, 15, 18, 21, 24, 27, 30, 33, 36, 39, 42, 45, 48, 51, 54, 57, 60, 63, 66, 69, 72, 75, 78, 81, 84, 87, 90, 93, 96, 99, 102, 105, 108, 111, 114, 117, 120, 123, 126, 129, 132, 135, 138, 141, 144, 147, 150, 153, 156, 159, 162, 165, 168, 171, 174, 177, 180, 183, 186, 189, 192, 195, 198, 201, 204, 207, 210, 213, 216, 219, 222, 225, 228, 231, 234, 237, 240, 243, 246, 249, 252, 255, 258, 261, 264, 267, 270, 273, 276, 279, 282, 285, 288, 291, 294, 297, 300, 303, 306, 309, 312, 315, 318, 321, 324, 327, 330, 333, 336, 339, 342, 345, 348, 351, 354, 357, 360, 363, 366, 369, 372, 375, 378, 381, 384, 387, 390, 393, 396, 399, 402, 405, 408, 411, 414, 417, 420, 423, 426, 429, 432, 435, 438, 441, 444, 447, 450, 453, 456, 459, 462, 465, 468, 471, 474, 477, 480, 483, 486, 489, 492, 495, 498, 501, 504, 507, 510, 513, 516, 519, 522, 525, 528, 531, 534, 537, 540, 543, 546, 549, 552, 555, 558, 561, 564, 567, 570, 573, 576, 579, 582, 585, 588, 591, 594, 597, 600, 603, 606, 609, 612, 615, 618, 621, 624, 627, 630, 633, 636, 639, 642, 645, 648, 651, 654, 657, 660, 663, 666, 669, 672, 675, 678, 681, 684, 687, 690, 693, 696, 699, 702, 705, 708, 711, 714, 717, 720, 723, 726, 729, 732, 735, 738, 741, 744, 747, 750, 753, 756, 759, 762, 765, 768, 771, 774, 777, 780, 783, 786, 789, 792, 795, 798, 801, 804, 807, 810, 813, 816, 819, 822, 825, 828, 831, 834, 837, 840, 843, 846, 849, 852, 855, 858, 861, 864, 867, 870, 873, 876, 879, 882, 885, 888, 891, 894, 897, 900, 903, 906, 909, 912, 915, 918, 921, 924, 927, 930, 933, 936, 939, 942, 945, 948, 951, 954, 957, 960, 963, 966, 969, 972, 975, 978, 981, 984, 987, 990, 993, 996, 999, 1002, 1005, 1008, 1011, 1014, 1017, 1020, 1023, 1026, 1029, 1032, 1035, 1038, 1041, 1044, 1047, 1050, 1053, 1056, 1059, 1062, 1065, 1068, 1071, 1074, 1077, 1080, 1083, 1086, 1089, 1092, 1095, 1098, 1101, 1104, 1107, 1110, 1113, 1116, 1119, 1122, 1125, 1128, 1131, 1134, 1137, 1140, 1143, 1146, 1149, 1152, 1155, 1158, 1161, 1164, 1167, 1170, 1173, 1176, 1179, 1182, 1185, 1188, 1191, 1194, 1197, 1200, 1203, 1206, 1209, 1212, 1215, 1218, 1221, 1224, 1227, 1230, 1233, 1236, 1239, 1242, 1245, 1248, 1251, 1254, 1257, 1260, 1263, 1266, 1269, 1272, 1275, 1278, 1281, 1284, 1287, 1290, 1293, 1296, 1299, 1302, 1305, 1308, 1311, 1314, 1317, 1320, 1323, 1326, 1329, 1332, 1335, 1338, 1341, 1344, 1347, 1350, 1353, 1356, 1359, 1362, 1365, 1368, 1371, 1374, 1377, 1380, 1383, 1386, 1389, 1392, 1395, 1398, 1401, 1404, 1407, 1410, 1413, 1416, 1419, 1422, 1425, 1428, 1431, 1434, 1437, 1440, 1443, 1446, 1449, 1452, 1455, 1458, 1461, 1464, 1467, 1470, 1473, 1476, 1479, 1482, 1485, 1488, 1491, 1494, 1497, 1500, 1503, 1506, 1509, 1512, 1515, 1518, 1521, 1524, 1527, 1530, 1533, 1536, 1539, 1542, 1545, 1548, 1551, 1554, 1557, 1560, 1563, 1566, 1569, 1572, 1575, 1578, 1581, 1584, 1587, 1590, 1593, 1596, 1599, 1602, 1605, 1608, 1611, 1614, 1617, 1620, 1623, 1626, 1629, 1632, 1635, 1638, 1641, 1644, 1647, 1650, 1653, 1656, 1659, 1662, 1665, 1668, 1671, 1674, 1677, 1680, 1683, 1686, 1689, 1692, 1695, 1698, 1701, 1704, 1707, 1710, 1713, 1716, 1719, 1722, 1725, 1728, 1731, 1734, 1737, 1740, 1743, 1746, 1749, 1752, 1755, 1758, 1761, 1764, 1767, 1770, 1773, 1776, 1779, 1782, 1785, 1788, 1791, 1794, 1797, 1800, 1803, 1806, 1809, 1812, 1815, 1818, 1821, 1824, 1827, 1830, 1833, 1836, 1839, 1842, 1845, 1848, 1851, 1854, 1857, 1860, 1863, 1866, 1869, 1872, 1875, 1878, 1881, 1884, 1887, 1890, 1893, 1896, 1899, 1902, 1905, 1908, 1911, 1914, 1917, 1920, 1923, 1926, 1929, 1932, 1935, 1938, 1941, 1944, 1947, 1950, 1953, 1956, 1959, 1962, 1965, 1968, 1971, 1974, 1977, 1980, 1983, 1986, 1989, 1992, 1995, 1998, 2001, 2004, 2007, 2010, 2013, 2016, 2019, 2022, 2025, 2028, 2031, 2034, 2037, 2040, 2043, 2046, 2049, 2052, 2055, 2058, 2061, 2064, 2067, 2070, 2073, 2076, 2079, 2082, 2085, 2088, 2091, 2094, 2097, 2100, 2103, 2106, 2109, 2112, 2115, 2118, 2121, 2124, 2127, 2130, 2133, 2136, 2139, 2142, 2145, 2148, 2151, 2154, 2157, 2160, 2163, 2166, 2169, 2172, 2175, 2178, 2181, 2184, 2187, 2190, 2193, 2196, 2199, 2202, 2205, 2208, 2211, 2214, 2217, 2220, 2223, 2226, 2229, 2232, 2235, 2238, 2241, 2244, 2247, 2250, 2253, 2256, 2259, 2262, 2265, 2268, 2271, 2274, 2277, 2280, 2283, 2286, 2289, 2292, 2295, 2298, 2301, 2304, 2307, 2310, 2313, 2316, 2319, 2322, 2325, 2328, 2331,



Cutting edge: a tunnel-boring machine pushes on inexorably towards France, above, while a British worker, below, blazes a trail with a probe to guide French engineers



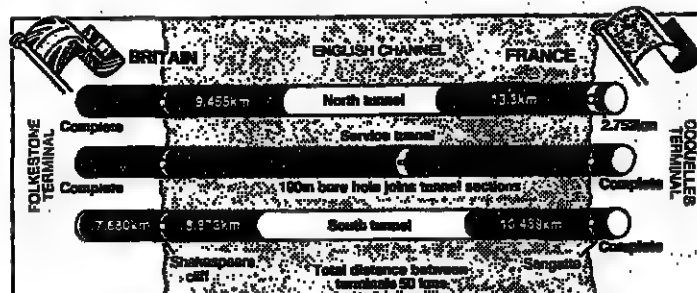
Light at the end of tunnel

By MICHAEL DYNES
TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

BRITISH and French construction workers were expected to make contact 57 yards beneath the seabed last night after more than three years of gruelling Channel tunnel excavations.

Workers on the British tunnel-boring machine were awaiting confirmation from their French colleagues that the two tunnel sections were correctly aligned. The breakthrough will occur after the French tunnel-boring machine excavates the last few yards of chalk to reveal a 100-yard, two-inch-bore hole, drilled from the British side on Sunday night to confirm that the two giant boring machines are where they are meant to be.

During the next few weeks construction workers will excavate a man-sized passage between the two tunnel sections. By December, it will be possible to walk between Britain and France for the first time since rising sea levels after the last Ice Age separated Britain from the Continent. In a ceremony



In January, Margaret Thatcher and President Mitterrand of France will make a rendezvous formally to link the two countries. It will be the culmination of a 200-year-old dream of connecting Britain to France, which began in 1802 when Albert Mathieu, one of Napoleon Bonaparte's engineers, produced a Channel tunnel plan.

With the task of boring the service tunnel out of the way, attention will focus on meeting the deadline for completing the two running tunnels, which Transmanche Link (TML), the Anglo-French consortium building the tunnel, hopes to have finished

Political sketch

Who dares shout loudest, wins!

"THERE'S going to be a war in the Gulf," says Ken Dodd at the Palladium, "and soon. How do I know? I passed Vera Lynn's house yesterday and I heard her gurgling."

Now we can add to that. There's going to be a general election. I passed the House of Commons at 3.15 yesterday and heard Mrs Thatcher gurgling.

"I seem to hear the stench of appeasement in the air!" cried our prime minister to the assembled MPs. She was all out to nip it in the bud before it snowballed.

Appeasement in the Gulf, appeasement over the sovereignty of Parliament, appeasement over subsidies to continental farmers... in one short parliamentary hour, all these stench-laden issues were assailed and strangled at birth and kicked into touch.

It was a bravura performance and one of Mrs Thatcher's finest. She stormed the Opposition ramparts, firing on every cylinder. Mr Kinnock was out for the count as she knocked him for six and potted the black hole in one.

Enough metaphor. Let us just say that she won. It was one of those rare parliamentary occasions when a single performance appeared to swing an argument. And it was swung — as her most famous arguments all have been — by neither reason nor persuasion and certainly by no felicity of language. It was won by self-assurance, and by just standing there and shouting.

Mrs Thatcher was dealing with the Rome summit, monetary union, and the Middle East. She had hold of two simple, brutal ideas, each with a direct appeal to the ordinary voter: that Saddam Hussein was a terrible man and had to be got rid of, and that we in Britain have a right to our own money with the Queen's head on it.

Over and over again, and in every kind of language, the prime minister punched home the same two ideas. Using the chamber as her sounding-board, she demonstrated that they

have a raw strength which cannot be gainsaid. Every time the doubters behind her or the critics opposite tried to challenge or qualify these simplicities, she just shouted them louder. And gradually, as the afternoon wore on, it emerged (in the tribal way that things do at Westminster) that she was winning. Who knows whether her ideas were the best, or even right; but in the passable simulation that our chamber provides of a British public bar, her ideas proved strongest. If you can swing an argument in the Commons, you can probably swing it in a pub; and if you can swing it in a pub, there are votes in it.

Mrs Thatcher started with a vicious punch at Neil Kinnock. The Opposition leader persists in trying to prove what everyone knows: that the PM has little time for some of her Cabinet colleagues' views. He invited her to support Sir Geoffrey Howe against his backbench critics.

It is hard to say why such mockery fails to wound, for the logic is unassailable. Yet it reminds one of a schoolboy reporting to the headmistress that one of her teachers has contradicted her. It may be cheeky, but it only underlines her authority. "Sir Geoffrey," Mrs Thatcher replied, "is too big a man to need a little man like you."

As questions went on, she seemed to build up steam. By the time that Mr Kinnock came back for a second bout (after her statement on the Rome summit) she was ready to explode.

She did explode. In a sustained rant, scarcely pausing for breath as her voice rose with her temper, she let a mixed salvo of reason, unreason, scorn, argument and vulgar abuse. It reminded me of the only time I ever heard my mother really lose her temper with my father.

On that occasion I hid under the bedclothes. I was not the only one in the chamber yesterday to fumble, involuntarily, for a blanket.

MATTHEW PARRIS

Dublin government faces fall

By EDWARD GORMAN, IRISH AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

AFTER 15 months in office the Irish Republic's coalition government may be brought down today by a no-confidence motion over the "Dublingate" affair.

Despite a series of tense meetings between senior government officials in Dublin throughout yesterday, there was no sign of a solution to a problem which threatens to precipitate an unwanted general election which all parties believe would not be in the public interest.

The affair centres on Brian Lenihan, the deputy prime minister, defence minister and Fianna Fail presidential candidate who is

accused of deceiving the public over his role in an attempt by three senior Fianna Fail politicians to persuade the Irish president not to dissolve the Dail during a constitutional impasse in January 1982.

With opposition parties and the junior coalition partners, the Progressive Democrats, on whom Charles Haughey, the prime minister, relies for his one-vote majority in the Dail, calling for Mr Lenihan to resign, there was widespread expectation that he would step down yesterday. After two meetings with Mr Haughey at his home, however, Mr Lenihan

was still holding on last night in spite of the government's likely defeat today and the probability that he will lose the presidential election a week today.

After discussions with Mr Lenihan in the morning, Mr Haughey reiterated his support for his long-serving colleague. He said Mr Lenihan had neither offered his resignation nor been asked to offer it. "Anything of that nature would be entirely a matter for my old friend, Brian Lenihan himself," Mr Haughey said. "I would not exert any pressure of any kind."

Conor Cruise O'Brien, page 12

Mosque stormed

Continued from page 1

safran flag, the colour of Hindu militancy, flapped from the rooftop, bringing a roar of triumph from the swirling mobs below.

To Hindu extremists this was the symbolic accomplishment of *kar seva*, or holy work — in other words, the beginning of the destruction of the mosque in order to build a temple in its place, supposedly the site of the god-king Lord Rama's birth.

The state government, alarmed that the news might provoke a Muslim backlash — or perhaps embolden Hindu extremists to go on a rampage — said *kar seva* had been achieved. "The structure is

intact and the status quo has been maintained," it said.

In general, the security forces were obviously reluctant to use force, doubtless reflecting the sympathies of many policemen — overwhelmingly Hindu — for the *kar seva*. As night fell, troops were called in to impose order.

DELHI: V. P. Singh, the Indian prime minister, offered to resign yesterday after the violence in Ayodhya. Facing a vote of confidence in parliament on November 7, Mr Singh said in a letter to S. R. Bommai, head of his Janata Dal party, that he was only staying in office at the urging of colleagues. (Reuters)

Red alert in Kuwait

Continued from page 1

The dramatic mood swing in Baghdad was due largely to the failure of President Gorbachev's peace mission to the Middle East, led by the Kremlin's top Arab specialist, Yevgeny Primakov, and the subsequent approval by the UN Security Council of resolution 674, making Iraq legally responsible for damages caused by its annexation of Kuwait.

"We expected Saddam to brush off the resolution, but it appears to have rattled him," said one diplomat yesterday.

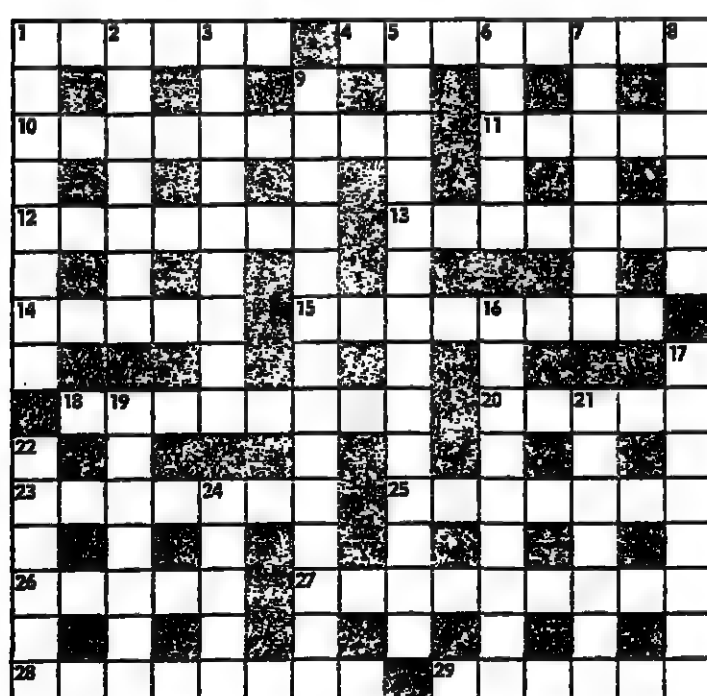
Before the resolution was passed, Baghdad had attempted to divide the alliance of nations lined up against it by a series of

conciliatory statements and gestures, including the release on Monday of all French hostages.

Iraqi officials have admitted privately that they are concerned about the possibility of a US attack on or after the American congressional elections on November 6.

The members of Congress who met with President Bush said that he was losing patience with Iraq, but had told them that he intended to continue relying on diplomatic measures to drive Iraqi troops out of Kuwait. But in Pittsburgh, Richard Cheney, the US defence secretary, said yesterday that the administration had not ruled out war with Iraq.

THE TIMES CROSSWORD PUZZLE NO 18,439



- ACROSS**
- Advice for elderly leader: go quietly (6).
 - Wide clearing (8).
 - Established state language (9).
 - He wrote about *Il Kiro* (5).
 - Pedal is altered, being plastic (7).
 - For sailors, here's trouble (7).
 - Geoffrey, amorously embracing love goddess (5).
 - Young swimmer allowed to follow the crowd? Not he (8).
 - Ruler of the birds, being a peacock (8).
 - Bird that is inferior to this one, of course (5).
 - Very large figures for waste in Government publicity service (7).
 - Silly characters in *Leur* (?)
- DOWN**
- Official has to lean on stick (8).
 - Discovery guarded in France (7).
 - Exaggerated past oppresses Haggard (9).
 - Oil fire believed doused? That's carefully planned (4-7-3).
 - Peak moves off top of counter (5).
 - He takes for granted location of fire (7).
 - On the uptake, prisoner to cut and run (6).
 - Old guard pronounced towns in strange ways (14).
 - Revolutionary met horrid time in Paris then (9).
 - Oh dear, girl is trapped in the boat (8).
 - Scarlet's claim to be sweet, maybe (7).
 - Mystic allowing finally almost no criticism (7).
 - It may provide calories, so put aside (6).
 - Greek statesman's farewell cut short (5).

Solution to Puzzle No 18,438

1. QUIETLY
2. CLEARING
3. FRENCH
4. KIROV
5. PLASTIC
6. TROUBLE
7. GILFILLAN
8. PEACOCK
9. FOLLOW
10. BIRD
11. WASTE
12. LEUR
13. OFFICIAL
14. DISCOVERY
15. HAGGARD
16. OIL
17. CAREFULLY
18. PEAK
19. LOCATION
20. UPTAKE
21. PRISONER
22. CUT
23. OLD
24. STRANGE
25. REVOLUTIONARY
26. HORRID
27. PARIS
28. BOAT

Concise Crossword, page 15

WORD-WATCHING

A daily safari through the language jungle. Which of the possible definitions is correct?

By Philip Howard

- URKE**
- To irritate, annoy
 - To block by infection
 - A small freshwater fish
- GANISTER**
- A gas canister
 - A wildflower's nest
 - A siliceous stone
- HAMPSTEADS**
- The teeth
 - Red braces
- INANTION**
- Starvation, anorexia
 - Stridulation
 - Inactivity

Answers on page 20, column 1

AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic and roadworks information, 24 hours a day, dial 0836 401 followed by the appropriate code.

London & SE traffic, roadworks	
C. London (within N & S Circles)	731
M-ways/roads M4-M1	732
M-ways/roads M1-Dartford T.	733
M-ways/roads Dartford T.-M23	734
M-ways/roads M23-M4	735
M25 London Circuit only	736
National traffic and roadworks	
National motorways	737
West Country	738
Wales	739
Midlands	740
East Angles	741
North-west England	742
North-east England	743
Scotland	744
Northern Ireland	745

AA Roadwatch is charged at 33p per minute (cheap rate) and 44p per minute at all other times

WEATHER

England and Wales will be mainly bright, but showers, which will be most frequent over coasts and hills exposed to the north-west, will spread inland to eastern and north-eastern areas. Sheltered parts of the south and south-east will have the best of the sun. In Scotland and Northern Ireland some showers might fall as hail or snow over mountains. It will be windy. Outlook: bright and cold with sunny spells and showers.

ABROAD

MONDAY: (w) thunder, drizzle, fog, sun; (s) sleet, rain, snow, fog, cloud, rain

Area	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Rain
Algeria	20-25	W 10-15	10-20	0
Algeria	20-25	W 10-15	10-20	0
Algeria	20-25	W 10-15	10-20	0
Algeria	20-25	W 10-15	10-20	0
Algeria	20-25	W 10-15	10-20	0
Algeria	20-25	W 10-15	10-20	0
Algeria	20-25	W 10-15	10-20	0
Algeria	20-25	W 10-15	10-20	0
Algeria	20-25	W 10-15	10-20	0
Algeria	20-25	W 10-15	10-20	0

AROUND BRITAIN

Area	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Rain
Scarborough	10-15	W 10-15	10-20	0
Humber	10-15	W 10-15	10-20	0
London	10-15	W 10-15	10-20	0
South	10-15	W 10-15	10-20	0
West	10-15	W 10-15	10-20	0
North	10-15	W 10-15	10-20	0
East	10-15	W 10-15	10-20	0
South	10-15	W 10-15	10-20	0
West	10-15	W 10-15	10-20	0
North	10-15	W 10-15	10-20	0

Monday's figures are latest available

LONDON

Yesterday: Temp: max 6 am to 6 pm, 14C (57F); min 6 pm to 6 am, 6C (43F); Humidity: 6 pm, 65 per cent. Rain: 54% to 6 pm, trace. Sun: 24 hr to 6 pm, 5.0 hr. Day: mean sea level, 6 pm, 985.4 mbars, rising, 1,000 mbars = 29.93 in.

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Monday: Highest day temp: Eastbourne, East Sussex, 13C (55F); lowest day temp: Cape Wrath, Highland, 4C (39F); highest night temp: Cape Wrath, Highland, 1.0C (34F); lowest night temp: Cape Wrath, Highland, -1.0C (30F).

MANCHESTER

Yesterday: Temp: max 6 am to 6 pm, 12C (54F); min 6 pm to 6 am, 6C (43F); Rain: 24 hr to 6 pm, 0.05 in. Sun: 24 hr to 6 pm, 4.8 hr.

GLASGOW

Yesterday: Temp: max 6 am to 6 pm, 10C (50F); min 6 pm to 6 am, 5C (41F); Rain: 24 hr to 6 pm, 0.5 in. Sun: 24 hr to 6 pm, 0.4 hr.

AM



PM



LIGHTING-UP TIME

London 4.25 pm to 6.04 am
Belfast 4.45 pm to 7.03 am
Edinburgh 4.25 pm to 7.19 am
Manchester 4.30 pm to 7.50 am
Penzance 5.01 pm to 7.12 am

YESTERDAY

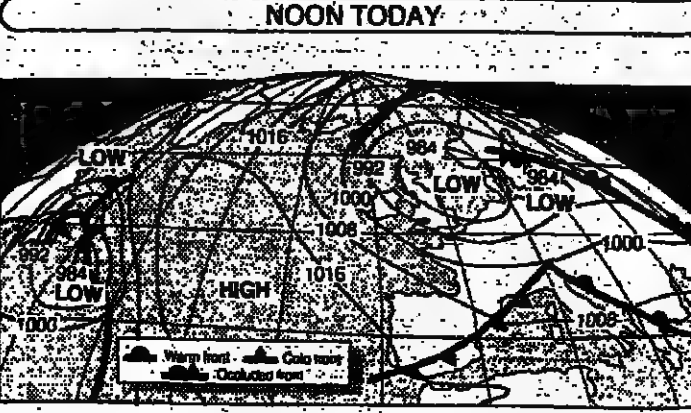
Temperatures at midday yesterday: C, cloud; F, rain; S, sun.

Area	C	F	Cloud	Rain
Belfast	9	48	100	0
Birmingham	11	52	100	0
Bristol	11	52	100	0
Cardiff	11	52	100	0
Edinburgh	9	48	100	0
Exeter	11	52	100	0
Gloucester	11	52	100	0
Leeds	11	52	100	0
Liverpool	11	52	100	0
Manchester	11	52	100	0
Newcastle	11	52	100	0
Nottingham	11	52	100	0
Sheffield	11	52	100	0
Southampton	11	52	100	0
Stoke-on-Trent	11	52	100	0
Swansea	11	52	100	0
Torquay	11	52	100	0
Wolverhampton	11	52	100	0
Wrexham	11	52	100	0

HIGH TIDES

Area	AM	PM	HT	LT
London Bridge	11:10	5:10	11:50	5:10
London Bridge	11:10	5:10	11:50	5:10
London Bridge	11:10	5:10	11:50	5:10
London Bridge	11:10	5:10	11:50	5:10
London Bridge	11:10	5:10	11:50	5:10
London Bridge	11:10	5:10	11:50	5:10
London Bridge	11:10	5:10	11:50	5:10
London Bridge	11:10	5:10	11:50	5:10
London Bridge	11:10	5:10	11:50	5:10
London Bridge	11:10	5:10	11:50	5:10

NOON TODAY



Information supplied by Met Office

THE TIMES NEWSPAPERS LIMITED, 1990. Published and printed by Times Newspapers Ltd, 1, Victoria Street, London W1 0ND. Telephone 071 755 7000. Fax 071 755 7001. Registered at a newspaper at the Post Office.

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● LAW 39
● SPORT 40-44

BUSINESS

WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 31 1990

Executive Editor
David Brewerton

Oil moves higher as Iraq goes on alert

THE price of oil continued its steady climb as dealers responded to President Saddam Hussein's decision to put Iraqi troops on full alert (Martin Barrow writes).

In London, December Brent rose \$1.07 to \$35.35 a barrel, before retreating to \$34.75, on renewed fears of military action in the Gulf. Brent for immediate delivery rose \$1.05 to \$35.70.

In New York, US crude futures opened 92 cents higher at \$35.60 a barrel. Prices are still comfortably below a peak of nearly \$42, recorded in September, but have almost fully recovered from last week's low of less than \$27.

Meanwhile, calls for the release of oil stocks by industrial nations will again be resisted by the International Energy Agency, the oil consumers' watchdog, which meets in Paris today.

The FT-SE 100 index closed 28.2 points down at 2,033.9 after a nervous start to trading on Wall Street. The latest CBI Industrial Trends Survey showing business confidence at its lowest for ten years and increased tension in the Middle East conflict produced hosts of nervous selling.

Midland buy
Midland Bank has agreed to buy the private banking subsidiary of the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation in Gibraltar. This is part of the programme of international rationalisation between the two banks to make way for a possible merger.

Thames TV cuts
Thames Television is shedding 297 production and technical jobs through compulsory redundancy as a result of government's requirement in the broadcasting bill that 25 per cent of all programmes must be independently made by 1993.

Power screen up
Powerscreen International, manufacturer of crushing and screening equipment, increased pre-tax profits by 12 per cent to £9 million for the six months to the end of September. The interim dividend is increased from 1.45p to 1.60p. *Tempos, page 25*

THE ROUND
US dollar 1.9505 (-0.0020)
German mark 2.9589 (-0.0037)
Exchange Index 94.8 (+0.1)
STOCKS
FT 30 Share 1575.3 (-24.7)
FT-SE 100 2033.9 (-28.2)
New York Dow Jones 2417.82 (-12.38)
Tokyo Nikkei Ave 25242.40 (-86.91)
Closing Prices ... Page 27
Major indices and major changes ... Page 26

CURRENCY
London Bank Rate 14%
3-month interbank 13%
3-month sterling bill 12%
US Prime Rate 10%
Federal Funds 7%
3-month Treasury Bill 7.167-14%
30-year bond 9.94-98 1/8

COMMODITIES
London
Copper 2.51
Gold 373.35
Silver 15.73
Platinum 1,111
Nickel 1.11
Zinc 1.11
Lead 1.11
Aluminium 1.11
Rubber 1.11
Wool 1.11
Cotton 1.11
Soybean 1.11
Wheat 1.11
Corn 1.11
Barley 1.11
Oats 1.11
Rice 1.11
Sugar 1.11
Coffee 1.11
Tea 1.11
Hides 1.11
Tanned skins 1.11
Fur 1.11
Feathers 1.11
Honey 1.11
Beeswax 1.11
Resin 1.11
Turpentine 1.11
Pitch 1.11
Gum 1.11
Shellac 1.11
Lac 1.11
Varnish 1.11
Paint 1.11
Ink 1.11
Paper 1.11
Cardboard 1.11
Glass 1.11
Ceramics 1.11
Metals 1.11
Fuels 1.11
Oils 1.11
Greases 1.11
Lubricants 1.11
Chemicals 1.11
Pharmaceuticals 1.11
Agriculture 1.11
Textiles 1.11
Leather 1.11
Furniture 1.11
Electronics 1.11
Automotive 1.11
Aerospace 1.11
Marine 1.11
Agriculture 1.11
Textiles 1.11
Leather 1.11
Furniture 1.11
Electronics 1.11
Automotive 1.11
Aerospace 1.11
Marine 1.11

NORTH SEA OIL
Brent (Dec) ... \$34.60 (\$34.00)
Denotes latest trading price

FOREIGN EXCHANGE
Bank of England
Australia 2.51
Belgium 2.51
Canada 1.11
Denmark 1.11
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Fall in confidence biggest since 1980, says CBI

By Philip Bassett

BRITAIN is now in a recession, the Confederation of British Industry said, as its latest UK industry survey showed the largest drop in business confidence for ten years.

While CBI leaders attempted to limit some optimism by claiming that investment by companies in innovation and training was holding up, its quarterly industrial trends survey showed that the decline in demand over the past four months is comparable to that recorded in the last deep recession in Britain in January 1981.

The survey of 1,255 manufacturing companies reported sharp

falls in jobs, output and orders in home and export markets. Demand and output are expected to fall further, though more slowly, though the CBI expects employment to decline more rapidly than at present.

David Wigglesworth, chairman of the CBI's economic situation committee, said: "There is a recession. It is serious but it is not yet severe. Overall, the deterioration has been worse than expected, and it now looks as though the business situation may get worse before it gets better. Manufacturing industry is clearly facing very tough economic and trading conditions."

General business confidence has declined, the CBI reports, for the

eight successive quarter. The proportion of companies now less optimistic about the overall business position has risen from 35 per cent in July to 53 per cent.

The balance of minus 47 per cent between those more and less optimistic marks the sharpest fall in business confidence measured by the survey since October 1980. However, the CBI said yesterday that it was still less dramatic than the comparable figure of minus 75 per cent in January 1974 and of minus 70 per cent in July 1980. Mr Wigglesworth admitted that the recession was "gathering pace", but he said it was not as bad as those in the two previous years for three

main reasons: British management was now more ready to deal with recession, companies were not cutting investment in innovation and training which was good for longer-term business health, and the cuts overall would not be as deep as they were in earlier recessions.

In detail, the CBI survey says:
□ Demand. This has fallen faster than expected. The downturn in new orders is the lowest since January 1981 — a balance of those seeing decline against those seeing improvements of minus 36 per cent.
□ Exports. Optimism has declined sharply: 38 per cent are now less optimistic, compared with 19 per cent in July, leaving a balance

overall of minus 25 per cent, the lowest figure since October 1982.

□ Output. The balance of minus 20 per cent measuring output over the past four months is the lowest figure since April 1981.

□ Investment. A balance of minus 15 per cent, the lowest since October 1982, indicates lower investment is expected over the next year.
□ Employment. This has fallen for the fifth successive quarter, with a balance of minus 26 per cent of companies expecting a sharply downward trend. CBI economists believe employment will now fall by about 9,000 a month.

Comment, page 25

Cathay Pacific in talks with Dan Air

From Harvey Elliott in Geneva

CATHAY Pacific Airways, the Hong Kong airline, is negotiating with Dan Air to buy the struggling airline's Gatwick engineering base and turn it into one of the world's biggest aircraft maintenance centres.

The sale of the base, which employs 1,700 people, is regarded as an essential part of the survival plan for Dan Air now being drawn up by its new chief executive, David James, the company doctor. He hopes to receive up to £25 million for the base that would then be ploughed back into the company and help offset the huge borrowings that have been taken out from banks round the world to keep it afloat.

The base contains a huge hanger and some of the most skilled engineers in Britain. It has so far, however, proved difficult to sell mainly because 70 per cent of its work is now carried out on Dan Air's own fleet of aircraft.

As these are now certain to be sold off to raise more cash as the airline is restructured many potential buyers backed out of the planned sale. Cathay, which owns a large engineering base in Hong Kong, needs such a maintenance centre in Europe to ensure the future of its engineering operations after the Chinese take over the colony in 1997.

"We are very interested in the base and believe it could become an important and profitable operation for us," Peter Stuch, managing director of Cathay Pacific said in Geneva.

He plans to extend the hanger to take the latest four engine jumbo jets. There is an enormous worldwide demand for deep maintenance work from airlines who cannot afford their own engineering facilities. Many, including British Airways, send their jets to Hong Kong both for engineering and refurbishment work. It is hoped that Gatwick could eventually take over as the main centre for such work, especially for European airlines.

Rival proposals have been made by a Danish engineering company and by British Aerospace but the pressure for a quick sale is mounting on Dan Air who desperately needs the cash to satisfy its bankers that its assets can be turned into vital cash and reduce its debt burden.

Nadir furious over raid by fraud officers

By Matthew Bond

THE Serious Fraud Office has raided the headquarters of Polly Peck International, the fresh fruit to electronics group now run by administrators.

Shortly before 8am yesterday, uniformed officers seconded from the Metropolitan Police arrived at the headquarters in Berkeley Square with a search warrant.

The raid prompted an attack by Asil Nadir, the Polly Peck chairman, who said the action was "symptomatic of a new desperation" at the SFO. In a statement, Mr Nadir said: "Notwithstanding the co-operation that the company and

myself have given, and continue to wish to give, the SFO — for reasons best known to itself — has chosen to use the Metropolitan Police to enter and search the company's premises in a more spectacular way than the investigations by professional accountants could achieve."

Mr Nadir reiterated that he had committed no criminal act. Nor, he said, had he been involved with any illegal or unauthorised share dealings.

His statement revealed that accountants attached to the SFO had been working at Polly Peck's headquarters for three weeks.

Police arriving at the head-

quarters were accompanied by Christopher Morris, of Touche Ross, and Michael Jordan, of Coopers & Lybrand DeLoitte, two of the three administrators appointed by the High Court last week.

Mr Morris said the administrators had been given "very little" notice of the raid, which was not linked to anything they had discovered since their appointment.

A statement from the SFO said: "Metropolitan Police officers attached to the Serious Fraud Office, assisted by accountants from KPMG Peat Marwick McLintock, who are the investigating accountants working with the SFO, today executed a search warrant at the headquarters of Polly Peck International. The search was carried out with the knowledge of the joint administrators appointed by the High Court."

"A quantity of documentation will be examined at the headquarters, but disruptions to the functions of the administrators are being minimised as far as is practical."

Mr Nadir is expected to renew legal moves this week, to force the SFO to reveal the source of the information that led to its investigation being launched. An earlier attempt to obtain a judicial review failed. Mr Nadir said neither he nor his lawyers knew what transactions the SFO is investigating.

Richard Stone, the third administrator, said he and his colleagues had been contacted by the DTI, which suggested a meeting in seven to ten days. The administrators yesterday returned to the High Court to have their individual roles defined.

It is understood the job of Mr Morris has been widened to look at the role of all Polly Peck's directors, rather than just that of Mr Nadir.

Nadir statement, page 25
Comment, page 25

Northern Cyprus poses catch for investigators

From Rany Gurdilek in Ankara

THE administrators to Polly Peck have been told by Davros Eroglu, the prime minister of Turkish-controlled northern Cyprus, that they will have to apply to his government for permission to carry out any investigations in the country.

Seemingly in an attempt to safeguard Polly Peck assets vital to northern Cyprus, Mr Eroglu said the administrators were free to come and talk to Polly Peck officials in northern Cyprus, but if they wanted to conduct investigations, they had to obtain official permission beforehand. The catch appears to be the likely reluctance of officials to apply to authorities of a state that the British government does not recognise.

Mr Eroglu said: "The Polly Peck investments, from citrus fruits to potatoes, from tourism to media, play a major role in the Turkish Cypriot economy, and the situation the company has fallen — or was pushed — into will inevitably spell some difficulties

for the TRNC (Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus). That's why our government having set up a technical committee, is closely following the developments and evaluating all the necessary steps."

He pledged to do whatever was necessary to prevent the producers or workers, or the economy in general, from suffering.

The Turkish Cypriot leader said Asil Nadir had given "clear directives" for the preservation of the newspapers run by Polly Peck in northern Cyprus, although conceded that some staff were being "temporarily" laid off.

Polly Peck investments in northern Cyprus, which provide work for 8,000, include the Sunzest citrus fruit company, Uni-Pac box-making plant, the Wearwell textile company, and three new luxury hotels, aside from the Salamis Bay sold recently to the Turkish Cypriot government to help raise cash.

Thames Water rates to rise

By Our City Staff

CUSTOMERS in Thames Water will see an extra £13 on their water bills, spread over a period of seven years, because of the government's first significant tightening of environmental controls since the industry's flotation late last year.

The news came as Thames was unveiling its pre-tax profit results for the six months to end-September, comfortably beating analysts' forecasts.

The company made £113 million pre-tax, a 29 per cent rise on the strictly comparable pro forma figure. The maiden

interim dividend is 6p. The company was forced to make provisions of £3 million-£4 million in respect of its PWT Worldwide subsidiary, bought from Portals Holdings last December and the subject of a continuing claim against the vendors. These were to cover losses on contracts in Iraq where work had had to be halted because of the Gulf situation. But for this, the company would have broken even, and it still expects the first profits in the next financial year.

Thames will have to spend

£150 million between now and 1998 on extra sewage treatment works because of the government's decision to ban all dumping into the North Sea, and the bill will be passed on direct to the consumer.

That cost, however, is dwarfed by the company's £400 million-a-year capital spending programme over the next ten years. This compares with £240 million in 1989-90. "We're very much on track," said Roy Watts, the Thames chairman.

Tempos, page 25

Unexpected plum for Brierley

By Martin Waller

SIR Ron Brierley, the New Zealand entrepreneur and veteran of many a bruising takeover battle, has won an unusual and serendipitous victory with the success of his £644 million cash bid for Mount Charlotte Investments, the Leeds hotels group.

It was a bid he had not wanted to make and had never expected to win. But a sufficient number of institutions, desperate to take cash in today's rocky markets, accepted 73p a share to bring in acceptances totalling 12.6 per cent of Mount Charlotte's shares. These, along with the 39.9 per cent held by Brierley Investments Ltd (BIL), Sir Ron's vehicle, were enough to propel it over the finishing line. The offer has been extended to November 12.

Paul Collins, chief executive of BIL, said: "I genuinely didn't believe that

other shareholders would accept the offer at this price. We genuinely believe our offer price undervalues the company. Even in these difficult times, only 12% per cent of the shareholders accepted."

A spokesman for Mount Charlotte said Robert Peel, the chief executive who has staunchly rejected the Brierley takeover, had no plans to leave the group. The board will this morning point out to its shareholders the disadvantages of remaining as minority shareholders, while drawing back from the usual recommendation to accept the offer immediately. The directors, who have just 1.5 per cent of the equity, will sell out or stay in as shareholders according to their individual circumstances.

The bid was triggered in September under takeover rules when BIL was offered the Kuwaiti Investment's 10 per cent holding at 72p, to add to its existing 29.9 per cent stake. Realising that the

share price would fall abruptly at any attempt to place the KIO stake, BIL bought the shares and then bid the minimum it could, 73p, in the expectation that the offer would not succeed.

Mr Collins admitted within days of the board's rejection that the bid was opportunistic and would probably fail. He said last night that he was "very confident" the Mount Charlotte board would remain with the group and that he supported the existing disposal programme. "Any chief executive wants to be able to run his own listed company. The reality is, as Mount Charlotte and Robert Peel will know, that Brierley Investments has a small management team. Other than people who haven't performed, we have never lost a chief executive of any company we've taken over."

Examiner hopeful on Goodman

By Our City Staff

An examiner investigating the empire of Larry Goodman, the Irish businessman, said yesterday he thought Europe's largest beef processor could be salvaged.

Peter Fitzpatrick told a news conference: "The group's core business is viable and can be rescued." Earlier Mr Fitzpatrick, who was called in to probe Goodman International's financial health, had presented his recommendations to the Dublin High Court and the 33 banks owed money.

"If I were a betting man, I would say the chances of having a work-out are reasonably good," he said.

Goodman's bankers, including Lloyds, National Westminster and Barclays, are being asked to write off loans worth £235 million (£212 million) to the company as part of a rescue plan proposed to the Irish courts.

Comment, page 25

STERLING HAS JOINED THE ERM THE TIME IS RIPE FOR AN ECU MORTGAGE

MINIMUM LOAN:
ECU EQUIVALENT OF £50,000

INTEREST RATE

11.50%

(APR 12.40%)*

MAXIMUM ADVANCE: 60%

SWITCHING FACILITY
INTO STERLING,
AT ANY TIME.
NO CONVERSION FEE

* The APR has been calculated on a repayment mortgage term of 25 years (25 years being the maximum term for which the ECU mortgage can be repaid). The APR is based on a loan of £100,000 repaid by 12 monthly payments of £1,111.11. The APR is based on a loan of £100,000 repaid by 12 monthly payments of £1,111.11. The APR is based on a loan of £100,000 repaid by 12 monthly payments of £1,111.11.

The ECU mortgage is subject to a 120% loan-to-value ratio. The loan-to-value ratio is based on the value of the property at the time of the mortgage. The loan-to-value ratio is based on the value of the property at the time of the mortgage. The loan-to-value ratio is based on the value of the property at the time of the mortgage.

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THE STERLING EQUIVALENT OF YOUR
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CURRENCY MORTGAGE MAY BE
INCREASED BY EXCHANGE RATE
MOVEMENTS.
YOUR HOME IS AT RISK IF YOU DO NOT
KEEP UP REPAYMENTS ON A MORTGAGE
ON OTHER LOANS SECURED ON IT.

STOCK MARKET City ignores Rank reassurances

The directors declared a first-quarter interim dividend of 3.75 cents a share yesterday but added that the full-year result to June 1991 would probably not improve on the previous year's Aus\$140.7 million.

During the second half the level of bad debts rose to £3.15 million for the year, largely as a result of the downturn in the construction and property sectors. Of this, £2 million is covered by credit insurance.

The capital spend was £21 million, of which £9.4 million was raised from share issues.

The shares were unchanged at 120p.

Once again share prices suffered an early mark-down

£1.1 billion in 1991. Again it blames the growing problem of bad debt and gives warning

pre-tax profits of £34 million to £118 million. The figures included a nine month

first half pre-tax profits almost £1 million higher at £9 million.

Investment in Eurumetal involves a significant degree of risk. The value of shares and rights to subscribe for shares can go down as well as up. Investment in the Eurumetal Rights Issue should be made only on the basis of information contained in the prospectus which is to be published in the course of 1994 and concerning investment in Eurumetal. It is recommended that you consult an appropriate professional adviser issued by Eurumetal P.L.C. and Eurumetal S.A. and approved by Morgan Grenfell & Co. Limited, a member of The Securities Association, for the purpose of section 75 of the Financial Services Act 1986.

TRADITION

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Portfolio PLATINUM

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No.	Company	Group	Share Price
1	Barclays	Property	200
2	British Telecom	Telecom	100
3	British Airways	Air	100
4	British Petroleum	Oil	100
5	British Steel	Steel	100
6	British Water	Water	100
7	British Airways	Air	100
8	British Airways	Air	100
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Please take into account any minus signs

Weekly Dividend						
Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £4,000 in Saturday's newspaper.						
MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN

The £2,000 Portfolio Platinum prize was won yesterday by Mr Benjamin Bell, of Cirencester, Gloucestershire.

BRITISH FUNDS

High Low Stock Price Change % P/E

SHORTS (Under Five Years)

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STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES

Widespread falls

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began October 22. Dealings end November 2. Contango day November 5. Settlement day November 12.

Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days.

Prices recorded are at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Where one price is quoted, it is a middle price. Changes, yields and price earnings ratios are based on middle prices. (a) denotes Alpha Stocks. (VOLUMES PAGE 24)

1990	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
1	100	95	Barclays	200	-5	-2.5	15.2
2	100	95	British Telecom	100	-5	-5	10.0
3	100	95	British Airways	100	-5	-5	10.0
4	100	95	British Petroleum	100	-5	-5	10.0
5	100	95	British Steel	100	-5	-5	10.0
6	100	95	British Water	100	-5	-5	10.0
7	100	95	British Airways	100	-5	-5	10.0
8	100	95	British Airways	100	-5	-5	10.0
9	100	95	British Airways	100	-5	-5	10.0
10	100	95	British Airways	100	-5	-5	10.0
11	100	95	British Airways	100	-5	-5	10.0
12	100	95	British Airways	100	-5	-5	10.0
13	100	95	British Airways	100	-5	-5	10.0
14	100	95	British Airways	100	-5	-5	10.0
15	100	95	British Airways	100	-5	-5	10.0
16	100	95	British Airways	100	-5	-5	10.0
17	100	95	British Airways	100	-5	-5	10.0
18	100	95	British Airways	100	-5	-5	10.0
19	100	95	British Airways	100	-5	-5	10.0
20	100	95	British Airways	100	-5	-5	10.0

1990	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
1	100	95	Barclays	200	-5	-2.5	15.2
2	100	95	British Telecom	100	-5	-5	10.0
3	100	95	British Airways	100	-5	-5	10.0
4	100	95	British Petroleum	100	-5	-5	10.0
5	100	95	British Steel	100	-5	-5	10.0
6	100	95	British Water	100	-5	-5	10.0
7	100	95	British Airways	100	-5	-5	10.0
8	100	95	British Airways	100	-5	-5	10.0
9	100	95	British Airways	100	-5	-5	10.0
10	100	95	British Airways	100	-5	-5	10.0
11	100	95	British Airways	100	-5	-5	10.0
12	100	95	British Airways	100	-5	-5	10.0
13	100	95	British Airways	100	-5	-5	10.0
14	100	95	British Airways	100	-5	-5	10.0
15	100	95	British Airways	100	-5	-5	10.0
16	100	95	British Airways	100	-5	-5	10.0
17	100	95	British Airways	100	-5	-5	10.0
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8	100	95	British Airways	100	-5	-5	10.0
9	100	95	British Airways	100	-5	-5	10.0
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11	100	95	British Airways	100	-5	-5	10.0
12	100	95	British Airways	100	-5	-5	10.0
13	100	95	British Airways	100	-5	-5	10.0
14	100	95	British Airways	100	-5	-5	10.0
15	100	95	British Airways	100	-5	-5	10.0
16	100	95	British Airways	100	-5	-5	10.0
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16	100	95	British Airways	100	-5	-5	10.0
17	100	95	British Airways	100	-5	-5	10.0
18	100	95	British Airways	100	-5	-5	10.0
19	100	95	British Airways	100	-5	-5	10.0
20	100	95	British Airways	100	-5	-5	10.0

199	100	95	Barclays	200	-5	-2.5	15.2
200	100	95	British Telecom	100	-5	-5	10.0
201	100	95	British Airways	100	-5	-5	10.0
202	100	95	British Petroleum	100	-5	-5	10.0
203	100	95	British Steel	100	-5	-5	10.0
204	100	95	British Water	100	-5	-5	10.0
205	100	95	British Airways	100	-5	-5	10.0
206	100	95	British Airways	100	-5	-5	10.0
207	100	95	British Airways	100	-5	-5	10.0
208	100	95	British Airways	100	-5	-5	10.0
209	100	95	British Airways	100	-5	-5	10.0
210	100	95	British Airways	100	-5	-5	10.0
211	100	95	British Airways	100	-5	-5	10.0
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213	100	95	British Airways	100	-5	-5	10.0
214	100	95	British Airways	100	-5	-5	10.0
215	100	95	British Airways	100	-5	-5	10.0
216	100	95	British Airways	100	-5	-5	10.0
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220	100	95	British Airways	100	-5	-5	10.0
221	100	95	British Airways	100	-5	-5	10.0
222	100	95	British Airways	100	-5	-5	10.0
223	100	95	British Airways	100	-5	-5	10.0
224	100	95	British Airways	100	-5	-5	10.0
225	100	95	British Airways	100	-5	-5	10.0
226	100	95	British Airways	100	-5	-5	10.0
227	100	95	British Airways	100	-5	-5	10.0
228	100	95	British Airways	100	-5	-5	10.0
229	100	95	British Airways	100	-5	-5	10.0
230	100	95	British Airways	100	-5	-5	10.0
231	100	95	British Airways	100	-5	-5	10.0
232	100	95	British Airways	100	-5	-5	10.0
233	100	95	British Airways	100	-5	-5	10.0
234	100	95	British Airways	100	-5	-5	10.0
235	100	95	British Airways	100	-5	-5	10.0
236	100	95	British Airways	100	-5	-5	10.0
237	100	95	British Airways	100	-5	-5	10.0
238	100	95	British Airways	100	-5	-5	10.0
239	100	95	British Airways	100	-5	-5	10.0
240	100	95	British Airways	100	-5	-5	10.0
241	100	95	British Airways	100	-5	-5	10.0
242	100	95	British Airways	100	-5	-5	10.0
243	100	95	British Airways	100	-5	-5	10.0
244	100	95	British Airways	100	-5	-5	10.0
245	100	95	British Airways	100	-5	-5	10.0
246	100	95	British Airways	100	-5	-5	10.0
247	100	95	British Airways	100	-5	-5	10.0
248	100	95	British Airways	100	-5	-5	10.0
249	100	95	British Airways	100	-5	-5	10.0
250	100	95	British Airways	100	-5	-5	10.0
251	100	95	British Airways	100	-5	-5	10.0
252	100	95	British Airways	100	-5	-5	10.0
253	100	95	British Airways	100	-5	-5	10.0
254	100	95	British Airways	100	-5	-5	10.0
255	100	95	British Airways	100	-5	-5	10.0
256	100	95	British Airways	100	-5	-5	10.0
257	100	95	British Airways	100	-5	-5	10.0
258	100	95	British Airways	100	-5	-5	10.0
259	100	95	British Airways	100	-5	-5	10.0
260	100	95	British Airways	100	-5	-5	10.0
261	100	95	British Airways	100	-5	-5	10.0
262	100	95	British Airways	100	-5	-5	10.0
263	100	95	British Airways	100	-5	-5	10.0
264	100	95	British Airways	100	-5	-5	10.0
265	100	95	British Airways	100	-5	-5	10.0
266	100	95	British Airways	100	-5	-5	10.0
267	100	95	British Airways	100	-5	-5	10.0
268	100	95	British Airways	100	-5	-5	10.0
269	100	95	British Airways	100	-5	-5	10.0
270	100	95	British Airways	100	-5	-5	10.0
271	100	95	British Airways	100	-5	-5	10.0
272	100	95	British Airways	100	-5	-5	10.0
273	100	95	British Airways	100	-5	-5	10.0
274	100	95	British Airways	100	-5	-5	10.0
275	100	95	British Airways	100	-5	-5	10.0
276	100	95	British Airways	100	-5	-5	10.0
277	100	95	British Airways	100	-5	-5	10.0
278	100	95	British Airways	100	-5	-5	10.0
279	100	95	British Airways	100	-5	-5	10.0
280	100	95	British Airways	100	-5	-5	10.0
281	100	95	British Airways	100	-5	-5	10.0
282	100	95	British Airways	100	-5	-5	10.0
283	100	95	British Airways	100	-5	-5	10.0
284	100	95	British Airways	100	-5	-5	10.0
285	100	95	British Airways	100	-5	-5	10.0
286	100	95	British Airways	100	-5	-5	10.0
287	100	95	British Airways	100	-5	-5	10.0
288	100	95	British Airways	100	-5	-5	10.0
289	100	95	British Airways	100	-5	-5	10.0
290	100	95	British Airways	100	-5	-5	10.0
291	100	95	British Airways	100	-5	-5	10.0
292	100	95	British Airways	100	-5	-5	10.0
293	100	95	British Airways	100	-5	-5	10.0
294	100	95	British Airways	100	-5	-5	10.0
295	100	95	British Airways	100	-5	-5	10.0
296	100	95	British Airways	100	-5	-5	10.0
297	100	95	British Airways	100	-5	-5	10.0
298	100	95	British Airways	100	-5	-5	10.0
299	100	95	British Airways	100	-5	-5	10.0
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NEWCASTLE UPON-TYNE

FOCUS

A SPECIAL REPORT by Peter Davenport

Bridging the past with pride

Early one morning last month a white coach wound through the streets of Newcastle upon Tyne carrying a delegation from the Soviet government, including representatives from the ministries of defence, foreign affairs and shipbuilding. Faced with the enormous task of improving their outdated industries to support President Gorbachev's free market, they had come to learn practical lessons from a region that had hauled itself up from economic despair to a remarkable revival.

During the past decade, Newcastle and the northeast region has experienced the painful contraction of traditional industries, such as coal, steel, shipbuilding and heavy engineering, which left a legacy of dereliction, crippling unemployment and a sense of hopelessness.

Today it would be impossible to recognise the area from that description. Unemployment has been halved, there has been an influx of new industries and investment, most notably the £1.3 billion pumped in by companies from Japan and the Far East, and the very fabric is undergoing important transformations. This is particularly evident along the banks of the River Tyne, where the government's Tyne and Wear Development Corporation, responsible for regenerating 700 acres of quayside, has attracted investments of £300 million from the private sector for its flagship schemes, and also within the city itself.

Alan Clarke, the head of the economic development unit of Newcastle city council, has a clear vision of the future of a city whose past reputation was built on its importance as an industrial powerhouse, producing coal, armaments, steel and shipbuilding.

Mr Clarke says: "We see the new Newcastle becoming a European business centre of excellence and quality. About 80 per cent of our workers are now employed in the service

Newcastle was severely hit by the decline in Britain's need for heavy industry, but the city shrugged off the past and set itself ambitious targets that, with the help of investment from abroad, are now coming to fruition

sector, with only 20 per cent in manufacturing, and this is just about the right mix because we realise that a good service sector depends on a healthy, if slumped, manufacturing sector.

"I took this job in 1986 when unemployment was at 21 per cent and it was the worst of times, but I believed in the product. I felt it could only get better, and it has. It will continue to do so over the next five years."

"Our recovery is well fragile and we need the performance of the past four years to be maintained for a decade, but we are now in a much stronger position to withstand the effects of any national recession."

As an example of the renewed confidence Newcastle has in itself, the city council will invest up to £1.5 million in the next five years on an advertising and promotional drive to

"sell" the area to business decision makers and institutional investors in London.

The campaign, headed by the J. Walter Thompson advertising agency, begins today and the aim is to improve the outdated "cloth cap and whisker" image some people have of the city and to stimulate further investment. "We felt that if we were really going to succeed in regenerating the local economy we had to change the image that many people still had of us," Mr Clarke says.

A survey of 70 managing directors of "London" and southeast-based companies operating in six key sectors of the economy was undertaken by the British Market Research Bureau and the results confirmed the presence of a misperceived status of key decision makers. Many of them did not see Newcastle as

late further investment. "We felt that if we were really going to succeed in regenerating the local economy we had to change the image that many people still had of us," Mr Clarke says.

Mr Clarke says: "We see the new Newcastle becoming a European business centre of excellence and quality. About 80 per cent of our workers are now employed in the service

a city in its own right, rather as part of the northern region. They believed it was surrounded by bleak and wild countryside, that it had no stature, was distant and peripheral.

On the positive side, there was recognition and admiration of the area's own efforts at revival, appreciation of its strong retail sector and a belief that things were getting better.

"We decided that we had to undertake a long-term, sustained campaign to improve our image. It could not be done in 12 months, but would take between three and five years and, if successful, would bring in new companies, attract further investment and aid the tourist industry as well."

It was a brave political decision by the council because, like many others, it is facing many financial pressures," Mr Clarke says.

The authority is producing a unitary development plan which will cover land use for the next 20 years and it will be pressing the government to allow selective development

in the green belt. It is clear there is interest in such developments. The city council is studying a proposal to create Britain's largest "green" industrial and business park, costing £750 million on a 2,000-acre site near Newcastle international airport in the centre of the green belt, although this has been put in abeyance pending deliberations on the unitary development plan.

Among the ambitious projects are the highly successful Newcastle Business Park, the recently completed £50 million Eldon Garden shopping centre, £30 million improvements to the city's premier thoroughfare, Grey Street, and a £6 million facelift for Lloyds Bank.

There are new homes, hotels, office, retail and leisure facilities planned or underway on the quayside which will renew the river's importance to the life of the city.

Newcastle continues to be the home for many enterprises

with international reputations, including Northern Engineering Industries (NEI), one of the area's largest employers, involved in the design, manufacture, construction, commissioning and servicing of capital plant around the world, Scottish and Newcastle Breweries, Press Offshore, Swan Hunter and Vickers defence systems.

The offshore oil and gas industry has grown in importance, with about 200 companies, employing around 20,000 people, based in the city and surrounding region. The area is strong, too, in electronics and information technology, advanced materials, biotechnology, pharmaceuticals, food processing, clothing and textiles, plastics, food and soft drinks.

An estimated 120 foreign companies are represented, including more than 30 from Japan and the Far East, 45 from the United States and 24 from Europe, and it is hoped to attract more.

Some concern has been expressed about the dependence of the local economy on foreign-owned companies, which do not have their headquarters in the region. However, Mr Clarke says many of the foreign-owned companies are setting up European centres in the run-up to the Single Market in 1992.



"Things could only get better": Jeremy Beecham, leader of the city council

"We envisage the new Newcastle becoming a European business centre of excellence and quality"

A pragmatic approach helps pay dividends

The city's Labour council has adopted Tory ideas that will benefit its citizens

FIVE years ago, Kenneth Clarke, then the environment secretary, set the tone for the relationship between a Conservative government and a local authority that was solidly Labour-controlled. "Newcastle," he said, "is a city we can do business with."

Mr Clarke's observations were a recognition of the pragmatic approach adopted by the city council under Jeremy Beecham, a solicitor who has been its leader since 1977. The policy has served Newcastle well, particularly at a time when other Labour-controlled authorities, in places such as Liverpool, have carried opposition to a point where it has appeared to have detrimental effects on their communities.

"We are opposed to much of what the Conservative government does, but our attitude has been that if there is something in what they do that will benefit our city, we look at it carefully and, if necessary, act on it," Mr Beecham says.

This attitude has had a positive effect on investment in the region, by foreign and British companies. It is reflected in the working relationships the city council has with the government-owned Tyne and Wear Development Corporation, local businesses and regional offices of central government.

Although Newcastle has progressed since its low point of the mid-Eighties, much remains to be achieved, particularly in further reducing unemployment, improving housing stock and developing education services.

Mr Beecham believes the city will become an increasingly important base of the service sector for "the new Europe," as well as protecting and enhancing its reputation for manufacturing skills in the new technologies.

The city has a thriving higher education system, which includes Newcastle university, with its international reputation in medicine, engineering and computing sciences; the polytechnic; the Newcastle fashion school, considered one of the best in the country; and Newcastle college, one of the biggest further education colleges in the UK, known for art and design as well as its catering and building sciences. All have close links with industry.

Recent improvements in modern communications and transport are promoting development. Government approval has been given for the upgrading of the entire 260-mile stretch of the A1 between the M25 and Tyneside to six-lane-motorway standard, by the year 2000. The British Rail east-coast main line will be electrified by May next year, cutting journey time from Newcastle to London by 30 minutes to two-and-a-half hours. Newcastle international airport, which sends 1.6 million passengers a year to 40 locations, including most European business centres, expects to increase numbers to two million by the middle of the decade.

Work has started on extending the city's underground rail system, the Metro, out to the airport. The Port of Tyne, an important element in Newcastle's heavy industrial past, continues to play a big role, offering container and freight shipping services, as well as passenger ferry links to Scandinavia and northern Europe.

"They are all important parts of the package the city council believes will help to attract new investment from home and abroad."

"Looking five years ahead, I see us secure as one of the important provincial centres," Mr Beecham says.

A CITY MADE FROM COAL AND STEEL. A PEOPLE MADE OF STRONGER STUFF.



Nobody could deny that Newcastle has a proud industrial past.

Wherever you look you can see the results of our endeavours.

Britain's greatest ships were built in Newcastle. The first steam turbine was made in Newcastle. The first bulb was invented in Newcastle. And a brewer on the Tyne gave us the finest bottled beer in the world.

But the city's success story doesn't end in the past.

New companies are succeeding here today. Companies like British Airways, Dunlop, Findus and AA Insurance Services have all come to Newcastle in the last few years.

And they're succeeding because they've found a workforce of people with the kind of qualities others don't have.

Qualities you can probably recognise in people you can probably recognise. Like perseverance and strength for example. The perseverance to see a job

through from start to finish. The kind that Bruce Oldfield displayed in his struggle from a Dr Barnardo's home to his own exclusive fashion house. The strength to keep going no matter how tough the going gets. The kind that enabled Steve Cram to keep on running until he was the fastest man in the world to run the mile.

They've found people with foresight. But that's hardly surprising. We've never been backward in looking forward in Newcastle. (Remember it was here that George and Robert Stephenson developed the railways over 150 years ago.)

They've also found people with incredible versatility and creativity. The versatility to take on any job, no matter how challenging. Just as Rowan Atkinson has, throughout his career. The creativity that's personified in Sting, formerly a secondary school teacher in Newcastle.

And, above all, they've found a workforce with an unparalleled sense of humour. The legendary Geordie sense of humour that has made Viz Britain's best selling comic.

But new companies aren't just finding miracle workers in Newcastle. They're finding it easy to get here as well.

By road, we're on the intersection of the A1 and the A69. By rail, we're bang in the middle of the East Coast line, two hours from Edinburgh and less than three from London.

By air, we're within easy reach of every European capital from Newcastle International Airport.

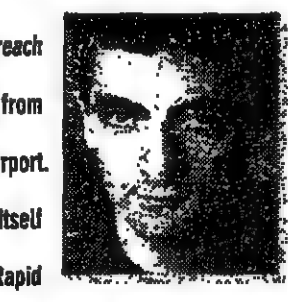
While in the city itself there's the Metro, the best Rapid Transit System in Europe, linking everything together.

In addition, there is Europe's largest indoor shopping centre, quality city centre shopping, and some of the best theatres and galleries outside London. And, on top of all that, we're surrounded by miles of beautiful countryside.

So, if you're thinking about moving your company, think about moving it to Newcastle.

You couldn't find a better place to be in business. Because you couldn't find better people to be in business with.

If you'd like more details please telephone Phil Payne on 091 261 7392, or you can write to him at: The Economic Development Unit, Civic Centre, Newcastle Upon Tyne NE1 8QN.



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NEW ERA. NEW ATTITUDE. NEWCASTLE.



Gerry Page, project manager of the airport expansion

Billy the Fish is a trademark of Billy the Fish (Publishing) Ltd

Hope of the rebuilt northeast

Where once stood heavy industrial factories, opportunities are opening in a £150 million business park, 'the largest business development site created in the north of England in half a century'

On the banks of the River Tyne, the Newcastle Business Park is emerging from the dereliction of a former armaments factory, part of the city's heavy engineering past, to become a symbol of its new economic future.

A total investment of £150 million is creating 750,000 sq ft of premier office space, which has attracted a range of nationally known companies providing 4,000 jobs between them.

Although the park, on 60 acres of the former Vickers Armstrong armaments plant and warship yards, will not be completed until next August, it is already 80 per cent let, and negotiations are underway with companies interested in taking a further 7 per cent of the space.

Among the organisations that have taken sites are AA Insurance Services, British Airways, Cellnet, the ministry of agriculture intervention board and Mertz and McLellan, a firm of engineering consultants.

The latest company planning to move to the park is ICL, the computer concern which has had offices in the city for more than 30 years. Its proposed site, 16,000 sq ft in the west wing of Weymouth House, is twice the size of its present accommodation.

"Given the growth of our business in the northeast and our confidence in the future of the region, we needed to

establish a new regional headquarters in Newcastle," says David Wimpess, ICL's UK personnel director. "The business park was a natural choice and met all our requirements."

Newcastle Business Park, the largest of its kind to be built in the north of England, was initiated by the Tyne and Wear Development Corporation (TandWDC), the government-created body responsible for the physical improvement and economic regeneration of six miles of Tyne riverside in the city, covering a total of 700 acres. It is being built by Dysart Developments, a local company, and is a flagship among the £500 million of developments launched so far by the corporation.

The park, ten minutes' walk from the city centre and 15 minutes by car from Newcastle international airport, faces two of the most socially deprived housing estates in the city.

Alistair Balls, the chief executive of the corporation, says that an important element of the scheme is to create job opportunities for people from the estates, where up to half the residents are unemployed. Anyone who joins a series of pre-recruitment training courses is guaranteed a job interview with one of the companies.

Mr Balls believes the success of the park points the way to the economic future of Newcastle as a thriving provincial capital, providing



Work plan: jobs will be created, says Alistair Balls, the development corporation chief

more high-quality service-sector jobs.

Rents on the business park, of £9 to £10 a sq ft, are good value, compared with those in London and other regional cities. The corporation plans to provide a further 750,000 sq ft of top quality office space, suitable for company headquarters, to meet a continuing need within the city.

Much effort has been made to create an attractive environment at the business park. Before any of the buildings went up, the development corporation spent £12 million removing all traces of dereliction, rebuilding the river edge, installing roads and services and removing an old railway line that restricted access.

A further £3 million is being spent on landscaping, with thousands of trees planted, the creation of an Italian Renaissance-style garden, and the refurbishment of stretches of historic wall that provide vertical links between the three levels of the site.

The park's first occupier was Cellnet, which established

its regional headquarters there. The company is investing £100 million in a 7,500-mile optical-fibre message-switching system for the northeast.

Last January, AA Insurance Services announced plans for an £18 million office complex at the park which will create 250 jobs, as well as the 1,250 it already provides in the city. Without the prospects of new headquarters on the park, AAIS might have been forced to move from the city.

The biggest single site has been taken by British Airways, which selected Newcastle from nine other cities as the location for a £36 million sales and software development centre, employing up to 1,000 people. Mr Balls says: "We believe it is the most significant investment in a decade in Newcastle, locating on the largest business development site created in the north of England in half a century. The northeast is on the way back."

A few weeks ago, the corpor-

ation embarked on its first national advertising campaign, costing £1.5 million, to mark the achievements since its creation three years ago and to stimulate further investment. The slogan is: "Welcome to the new northeast."

Part of that newness is the change in the physical appearance of the city, particularly along its historic waterfront. The corporation has several big schemes underway, including the £25 million Copthorne Hotel and office complex at Closegate and a £35 million mixed housing and marina development at St Peter's Basin. Excavation work is starting on the £150 million East Quayside, site which will provide 225,000 sq ft of offices, 120,000 sq ft of retail space with restaurants, bistros, wine bars, a 200-bed hotel, exhibition centre, homes and leisure facilities.

The corporation's activities have already had a big impact on the city. Mr Balls says: "What we have done most of all is help the city move forward with vigour and confidence that it can truly be a main provincial centre. It has always said it is but, in its heart of hearts, it has not been too sure of it. Its future lies in developing itself as an important service centre."

Retreat for weekenders

The city earns a reputation for short-stay tourism and conferences

including an estimated 2,000 Scandinavians who arrive every weekend during peak times in the summer and the run-up to Christmas.

Newcastle has more than 100 restaurants, 60 traditional pubs, wine bars, nightclubs and theatres, including the Theatre Royal, which has been refurbished at a cost of £9.3 million.

City centre hotels have undergone £2.5 million worth of refurbishment and the range is being extended. A 120-bedroom hotel opened earlier this year at the airport; the Copthorne, is under way in the Closegate development next to the Tyne bridge; and a 200-bed, five-star complex is planned for the £150 million East Quayside scheme.

A city centre steering group made up of traders and council officials has concentrated on making the area more attractive by improving litter control, drawing up areas for pedestrians and providing more car parking.

Newcastle is on the doorstep of four national parks - Northumberland, the Lake District, the Yorkshire Dales and the North York Moors - and the spectacular beauty of the Farne Islands is within easy reach. Kleider Water, Europe's largest man-made lake, lies 40 miles north of the city and is a popular location for water sports.

The city has proved itself capable of staging important events. The annual Great North Run, said to be the world's largest half-marathon, attracts tens of thousands of spectators, and 1.5 million visitors saw the vessels in the Tall Ships Race leave the Tyne in 1986. Even greater numbers are expected when the event returns in 1993.

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THE NEWCASTLE INITIATIVE
The Newcastle Initiative Office, Tyne Brewery, Callaghan, Newcastle upon Tyne NE99 1RA. Telephone: 091-222-6839.

How a survival plan saved city stores

Festive lights to mark success

NEWCASTLE is not only the retail capital of the northeast. It is one of the leading shopping centres in the UK, offering a wide range of high street names and a variety of specialist stores. Although the city has a population of just 280,000, it serves 1.2 million people in the Tyne and Wear conurbation and attracts visitors from further afield.

The impact of the national downturn in the economy has been felt less in the city than in other areas of the country, particularly London and the southeast, and the levels of disposable income remain comparatively high.

Among the developments intended to enhance Newcastle's retail reputation further is the £50 million Eldon Garden shopping centre, completed last year, which provides 50,000 sq ft of high quality shopping on three levels at the heart of the city's main shopping area, Eldon Square. It is already proving a draw that seems certain to add to the 33 million people a year who shop in Eldon Square.

Northumberland Court, a 120,000 sq ft scheme costing £50 million, at the junction of Northumberland Street and Blackett Street, is due to be completed by Christmas next year, providing 46 shop units and a food court.

The opening of the Metro Centre, just across the city boundary at Gateshead, in 1986 meant traders in Newcastle could not rest on their laurels. About 400 shops in

Europe's largest out of town complex, together with a bowling alley and indoor theme park, posed an obvious threat to their economic well-being. The Metro Centre attracts about 21 million visitors a year.

Initial forecasts were that trade in the city would plummet by as much as 20 per cent and, partly as a result of the threat, the City Centre Steering Group, representing traders and the council, was formed to co-operate on measures to promote city centre shopping.

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there is an excellent transport system, including the Metro, a good bus service and 11,000 car parking spaces.

The Metro Centre was seen as an obvious threat, but we have been consistently trading and the results were much better than some people had feared.

"We have all put a lot of work into making the city centre attractive to the shopper and are now reaping the benefits. This Christmas we will have the best lights outside London's West End. I believe that city centre stores and out of town shopping centres can live together."



Achievement: Alan Clark, the city's head of economic development, at the Civic Centre, home to Lloyds Bank

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A lesson in planning for the future

Newcastle is well served for higher education and the quality of its institutions is a main attraction for businesses intending to move to the area, from Britain and overseas.

The university, polytechnic and college of further education have a combined campus of about 38,000 students and many of their departments have international reputations.

All have concentrated on developing strong links with industry in the city and throughout the northern region. For the many Japanese companies with offices in Newcastle, those connections in research and training facilities proved persuasive in their choice of location.

Newcastle university and Newcastle polytechnic are members of an organisation called Higher Education Support for Industry in the North (Hesin), which also includes Durham university, the polytechnic at Sunderland and Teesside and the Open university (northern region).

Earlier this year the university earned more than £2 million in commercial work in one month

Hesin's aim is to expand the institutions' contribution to the economic growth of the region by making their academic resources more accessible to companies.

Although it has a small team of full-time staff, it can call on the skills of about 3,500 academic staff.

One of its roles is to provide information and technical support for companies through a small company formed by Hesin called RTC (Regional Technology Centre) North.

Among the projects developed by the organisation is a novel training course, launched last January, for industrial employees.

Known as the Integrated Graduate Development Scheme, the project offers a postgraduate, modular, residential course leading to a MSc degree, which is claimed to be the most ambitious inter-

One of the biggest attractions for companies relocating to the Newcastle area is its reputation for providing first-class facilities for higher education

institutional venture of its kind in the UK. Each course module is taught by a pool of lecturers from the member institutions.

Industry has helped shape the curriculum and some of the most progressive engineering firms in the region are participating, including Marconi, Komatsu, NEL, Swan Hunter and Vickers. The course is intended to produce a new generation of high-quality managers with a strong technology base and a keen vision of the future.

Apart from the incentive of gaining further academic qualifications, the trainee should find the course a springboard for the development of his or her career in the rapidly changing industrial world," a Hesin spokesman says.

Newcastle university is one of the oldest in England, has 9,000 undergraduates and 1,200 postgraduate and is the tenth largest university in the country. It has a reputation for excellence in medicine, engineering, economics, computing sciences and agriculture.

Newcastle polytechnic has 12,500 undergraduates and 600 postgraduates and is highly regarded for art, design, construction, business management and science.

Newcastle college, with 16,500 students and more than 600 courses, is one of the largest further education colleges in the country.

All three institutions are represented on a "task force" that is drawing up an inventory of the city's research capabilities and producing an economic forecast for the year 2015 which will enable it to target its initiatives more effectively.

Professor Laurence Martin, the vice-chancellor of Newcastle university, has no doubt that the presence and reputation of the higher education establishments has been an important factor in the economic development of the city and the region.

The higher education sec-

tor is vital to the success of the area," he says. "If the university went away from here it would be a tremendous blow. As well as the intellectual input we provide, we are probably the biggest employer, after the city council and the DHSS, with a workforce of 3,500 people, and we spend £70 million a year, most of it in the city."

Like many universities, Newcastle is enhancing its budget by seeking commercial research contracts. Earlier this year, for the first time, it was able to report more than £2 million of work in a month. The university is now earning more than £20 million a year from research contracts, including some £4.5 million on EC-funded projects.



Laurence Martin, vice-chancellor of Newcastle university: "Higher education is vital to the city's success"

Task force kindles a fighting spirit

The city is pioneering a community project to lift regional capitals out of the doldrums and signal a bright new future

THE Newcastle Initiative (TNI), a campaign by public and private figures in the city to secure its status as one of the great regional capitals of Britain, was the first such scheme in the country.

It was launched two years ago after the publication of a report by a Confederation of British Industry task force on ways in which businesses could help in urban regeneration.

The initiative brought together industrialists, academics, the local authority, government departments and agencies established by Whitehall to tackle inner-city problems. The aim was to encourage the private sector to become involved in regeneration, partly by the joint planning and co-ordination of developments that were commercially viable and attractive and would bring new vigour to the city. Similar schemes have now been established in 13 other cities.

"Nobody is claiming that we have all the answers here," says Bill Hay, chief executive of TNI, who was seconded

from British Telecom. "But we have a growing number of people from all over the country coming to Newcastle to see what we are doing, so we must be getting something right."

"One of the biggest changes has been in attitude. Instead of people simply wishing something would happen, they now want to be a part of the process in making sure that it does."

The city's private sector has provided about £80,000 to cover the operating costs of the programme's first three years, and a further £150,000 is pledged to sustain TNI through another three years. Its original statement of objectives said it would "identify specific projects which will help develop Newcastle as a vibrant and stylish regional capital, thereby revitalising the city's economic life so as to produce a steady growth in local employment, an improved urban environment,

and the maximum possible contribution to the economy of the whole northeast region."

The organisation, which has a core membership of 20 people from the business world, the local authority, Northern Development Company, government departments and agencies, identified a series of proposals and assigned a team to complete each one.

RECENTLY it produced progress reports on the projects which detailed the developments to date, including:

● The West City Theatre Village project. The Westgate Trust has been set up by TNI to regenerate the inner-city area of west Newcastle and change it into a thriving community with special emphasis on the arts and leisure.

The project is regarded as an important social initiative, and among the trust's roles is that of adviser to the Department of the Environment on the distribution of the City Grant within the area. It is

also charged with ensuring the development of comprehensive projects, rather than piecemeal schemes.

● The Grey Street/Quayside project. The initial aim of the proposal was to accelerate the refurbishment of Newcastle's commercial heart in Grey Street, link it to the old Quayside and restore the area to its former status as one of the most desirable commercial addresses in the north. So far, it has promoted and marketed the area as "The Grey Street Renaissance", encouraged several significant developments balanced between new in-fill buildings, the refurbishment of premises and the restoration of historic stone frontages.

● Japanese links. TNI has fostered the development of the area's commercial and cultural links with Japan and the 42 Japanese companies already in the region, which will have invested £1.4 billion by the end of 1992, creating 12,000 jobs. It now intends to establish a Japanese pavilion, or Pacific Rim trade centre, in the city and hopes to attract

one of the top Japanese banks. ● Higher education. A project to explore what contribution the city's higher education establishments can make to urban regeneration and economic development.

● Business Action in the Community. A key project to provide fresh momentum for the organisations already working in the field and to ensure that any new jobs provide opportunities for the long-term unemployed and improve the quality of life in some of the most socially deprived areas of the city. An important initiative has been also been launched in the Cruddas Park/Loadman Street area, which consists of 11 blocks of flats and three rows of low-rise, high-density housing, a total of 1,000 households where unemployment can reach 60 per cent. The aim is to get the business community to work with local people to make physical improvements to the community and provide jobs.

Mr Hay adds: "The initiative has succeeded in bringing together people from a wide range of backgrounds to work for the common aim of improving the status of the city and all those who live and work in it."



New heart: refurbishing the Grey Street commercial centre and linking it with Quayside

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Court of Appeal

Law Report October 31 1990

Court of Appeal

One tax inspector can act for another Problems of seeing judge in his room

Burford v Durkin (HMIT)
Before Lord Justice Slade, Lord Justice Nicholls and Lord Justice Fargher
[Judgment October 30]

Assessments raised on a contractor under regulation 13 of the Income Tax (Sub-Contractors) Regulations (SI 1975 No 1960) were not invalid by reason of their being signed by a tax inspector acting on the instructions of another inspector who had taken the decision that they should be made.

The Court of Appeal so held in dismissing an appeal by the contractor, Mr Derek Burford, from the decision of Mr Justice Mervyn Davies, [1989] STC 845 upholding a special commissioner's determination in respect of assessments for years from 1978 to 1984 for some £26,000.

Section 69 of the Finance (No 2) Act 1975 obliged contractors to make deductions from payments to sub-contractors who were not holders of tax exemption certificates.

Regulation 13 of the 1975 Regulations provides: "(1) Where... the inspector has reason to believe... that the amount which a contractor is liable to pay to the collector under these regulations is greater than the amount, if any, which he has so paid... the inspector may at his discretion make an assessment on the contractor in the amount which,

according to the best of his judgment the contractor is liable to pay..."

Mr R. K. Mathew for the contractor, Mr Alan Moses, QC, for the Crown.

LORD JUSTICE SLADE said that the assessments related to substantial sums paid by the contractor to sub-contractors without the deductions required by section 69 of the 1975 Act. The essence of the contractor's submissions to the court was that the assessments had not been validly made because the decision to make them under regulation 13(1) had been exercised by one tax inspector, Mr Martin, but the certificates signed and entered in the assessment book by another inspector, Mr McEnhill.

The assessments could only be valid, it was said, if all the necessary acts to be done in making an assessment were done by one and the same tax inspector.

The special commissioner found that Mr Martin, being second of the contractor's tax affairs, had taken the decision to make the assessments. Mr Martin had then instructed Mr McEnhill to do so.

It was common ground that an assessment was finally made when a certificate recording its entry in the assessment book was signed, here by Mr McEnhill (see *Hong v Sarsfield* [1986] STC 246). The judge had dismissed the

contractor's appeal holding that once Mr Martin had decided to make an assessment and had calculated the amounts of the assessments then the assessments were made for regulation 12 purposes.

There was difficulty in accepting that view. The assessments were not made for regulation 12 purposes until Mr McEnhill finally signed the certificates. But it did not follow that merely because the assessments were made when the certificates were signed that it was Mr McEnhill who made them. The commissioner found that he had signed the documents as agent of, and at the request of Mr Martin.

Mr Moses, relying on the general principle of law, *qui facit per alium facit per se*, acted done by an authorised agent are deemed to be acts of the principal, argued that where a statute conferred a power on an officer to exercise his discretion he had to exercise it himself but once he had exercised it could delegate more administrative tasks to others. If he did so, he had still properly exercised his statutory power and had not delegated his power to anybody.

Mr Mathew accepted that general proposition of law but submitted it had no application to regulation 12 which gave an inspector power to impose a severe financial burden on a subject.

That power was exceptional and the regulation had to be strictly complied with. It contemplated, it was said, that

the inspector who exercised the discretion would himself actually make the assessment.

That argument was advanced with skill and force but it was difficult to see that there had been any contravention of the wording of the regulation. There would be no potential prejudice to taxpayers if the course adopted in the instant case was followed providing that the person signing the certificates was not exercising any independent judgment of his own. A taxpayer's case would not be harmed if the inspector who made the decision to assess arranged for the certificates to be signed by a different inspector. The function of Mr McEnhill had been to carry out a purely administrative act.

Mr Moses' general proposition of law was correct and applied to the case, it being stressed that the acts done by Mr McEnhill were administrative and that he had exercised no discretion of his own.

The Crown's alternative arguments involving the incorporation of sections 1(3) and 1(3)(18) of the Taxes Management Act 1970 into regulation 12 did not have to be decided and judgment would not be prolonged by expressing any other decisions on those provisions.

Lord Justice Nicholls gave a concurring judgment and Lord Justice Fargher agreed.

Solicitors: Fairchild Greig, Acton; Solicitor of Inland Revenue.

Regina v Pittman
Before Lord Lane, Lord Chief Justice, Lord Justice Auld and Mr Justice Auld
[Judgment October 22]

The attention of courts up and down the country was drawn to difficulties arising from visits by counsel to a judge in his private room, which resulted in a steady flow of appeals that no amount of criticism, no number of warnings and no count of exhortation seemed to be able to prevent. It was to be hoped, Lord Lane, Lord Chief Justice, stated, that at last the point might be home.

His Lordship was delivering the judgment of the Court of Appeal, allowing an appeal and quashing the conviction on a plea of guilty at Bristol Crown Court before Judge Bursell, QC, by Richard Philip John Pittman, aged 30, of Whitchurch, Bristol, to causing death by reckless driving. The appellant had been sentenced to nine months imprisonment and disqualified for four years.

He had also been committed to the crown court in respect of an offence of driving with excess breath-alcohol, for which he had been sentenced to six months concurrent. On appeal, a 14-day prison sentence was substituted and a two-year driving disqualification was imposed.

Mr Ian Dixey, assigned by the Registrar of Criminal Appeals, for the appellant; Mr Glenn Reed for the Crown.

The LORD CHIEF JUSTICE said that the appellant had withdrawn a plea of not guilty to the charge of causing death by reckless driving and pleaded guilty on January 17. Sentence was passed on February 9, following an adjournment for psychiatric reports to be obtained.

He was deeply affected by the accident. Hence the adjournment of the case by the judge in order to obtain psychiatric reports. There was no doubt that the appellant had been gravely psychologically affected by the fact that he felt himself at least partly responsible for the terrible accident.

That, however, was not the gravamen of the case. There was, it seemed, a steady flow of appeals from visits by counsel to the judge in his private room and no amount of criticism, no number of warnings and no amount of exhortation seemed to be able to prevent that happening.

In order to draw to the attention of courts up and down the country the point which, their Lordships hoped, might at last be home, his Lordship thought it necessary to cite at length a portion of the judgment of the court given by Lord Justice Mustill in *R v Harper-Taylor*, [1988] 1 All ER 1000, [1988] 1 Cr App R 188.

A first principle of criminal law was that justice was done in public, for all to see and hear. By that standard a meeting in the judge's room was anomalous; the essence and, indeed, the

purpose being that neither the defendant nor the jury nor the public were there to hear what was going on. Undoubtedly, there were circumstances where the public had to be excluded. Equally, the jury could not always be kept in court throughout.

The withdrawal of the proceedings into private, without even the defendant being there, was another matter. True, as the court had stated in *R v Turner (Frank)* [1970] 2 QB 321, 326, there had to be freedom of access between counsel and the judge when there were matters calling for communications or discussions of such a nature that counsel could not, in the interests of his client, mention them in open court.

Criminal trials were so various that a list of situations where an approach to a judge was permissible would only mislead; but it had to be clear that communications should never take place unless there was no alternative.

Apart from the question of principle, seeing the judge in private created risks of more than one kind. The need to solve an immediate practical problem might combine with the more relaxed atmosphere of the private room to blur the formal outlines of the trial.

Again, if the object of withdrawing the case from open court was to maintain a confidence, as it plainly had to be, there was room for misunderstanding about how far the confidence was to extend, and, in particular, there was a risk that counsel and solicitors for the other parties might hear something said to the judge which they would rather not hear, putting them into a state of conflict between their duties to their clients and their obligation to maintain the confidentiality of the private room.

The absence of the defendant was also a potential source of trouble. He had to learn what

the judge had said at second hand, and might afterwards complain (rightly or not) that he was not given an accurate account.

Equally, he could not hear what his counsel had said to the judge and, hence, could not intervene to correct a misstatement or an excess of authority: a factor which might not only be a source of unfairness to the defendant but which might also deprive the prosecution of the opportunity to contend that admissions made in open court in the presence of the client and not repudiated by him might be taken to have been made with his authority.

The Lord Chief Justice said that the present case was a prime example of the sort of difficulties which arose when those injunctions were disregarded.

Both counsel were told by the court clerk that the judge wished to see them in his room. Neither counsel had requested to see the judge in chambers before the start of the hearing. No shorthand writer was present and no recording device was present inside the room.

Counsel, of course, had no option but to see the judge at his request. The only small criticism that could perhaps be made of counsel was that they could have suggested to the judge that a shorthand writer or some recording device might perhaps be obtained.

His Lordship summarised the events, as revealed by a note agreed by counsel, the judge having indicated that the note coincided almost entirely with his recollection.

The sequence of events seemed to their Lordships to be: 1 The judge had expressed his view that there was no viable defence to the charge. That, by itself, did not amount to the judge's view that the appellant was guilty. It also put counsel in the invidious position of having to decide whether to ask for the case to be transferred to another judge.

with all the difficulties and dangers which that might entail for the appellant. 2 The judge was told that the plea of not guilty was on counsel's advice, that the appellant accepted his responsibility for the accident and for carelessness but not recklessness. The judge said that, if he really was accepting that responsibility, he had to plead guilty.

Counsel was anxious, clearly, to discover the purpose and asked whether he could give any indication as to sentence. The judge declined that invitation but said that there would be a substantial mitigation in a plea of guilty. Counsel was left guessing what the judge was hinting at.

Counsel, having had the interview, was faced with having to explain to the appellant what had happened and to give the best advice to him, he being highly enraged and charged at the time. Eventually he decided to plead guilty.

Other matters of importance were that the driver of the other car felt no animosity, references the appellant put before the court were magnificent, he was deeply affected by the accident and was on the edge of being clinically depressed.

Their Lordships concluded that the proceedings in the judge's room and everything said and indicated by the judge there amounted to a material irregularity. They put the appellant and his advisers in obvious difficulty.

They placed pressure, improper pressure, albeit indirectly on the appellant to change his plea to one of guilt in the fear that the judge had said meant, first, that his chances of acquittal were thin and that, if he was convicted by the verdict of the jury, he would most certainly go to prison. The conviction for causing death by reckless driving was both unsafe and unsatisfactory. Solicitors: CPS, Bristol.

Lurking policeman not 'passengers'

Cheeseman v Director of Public Prosecutions
Before Lord Justice Bingham and Mr Justice Waterhouse
[Judgment October 19]

Police officers who witnessed a man masturbating in a public lavatory were not "passengers" within the meaning of section 28 of the Town Police Clauses Act 1847 when they had been stationed in the lavatory following complaints.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court so held in allowing an appeal by way of case stated by Ashley Frederick Cheeseman against his conviction by Leicester City Justices of an offence of wilfully and indecently exposing his person in a street to the annoyance of passers-by.

Section 81 of the Public Health Amendment Act 1907 extended the meaning of the word "street" in section 28 to include, *inter alia*, any place of public resort under the control of the local authority.

Mr Stuart Rafferty for the appellant; Mr David Bartlett for the prosecution.

LORD JUSTICE BINGHAM, concurring with Mr Justice Waterhouse, said that *The Oxford English Dictionary*

showed that in 1847 when the Act was passed "passenger" had a meaning, now unusual except in the expression "foot-passenger" or "a passer by" or through; a traveller (usually on foot); a wayfarer.

Before the meaning of "street" was enlarged in 1907 that dictionary definition of passenger was not hard to apply: it clearly covered anyone using the street for ordinary purposes of passage or travel.

The dictionary definition could not be so aptly applied to a place of public resort such as a public lavatory, but on a commonsense reading when applied in context "passenger" had to mean anyone resorting in the ordinary way to a place of public resort for one of the purposes for which people would normally resort to it.

If that was the correct approach, the two police officers were not "passengers". They were stationed in the public lavatory in order to apprehend persons committing acts which had given rise to earlier complaints. They were not resorting to that place of public resort in the ordinary way but for a special purpose and thus were not passengers.

Solicitors: Bray & Bray, Leicester; CPS, Leicester.

Enquiring into reason for importing drugs

Regina v Meah
Before Lord Justice McCowan, Mr Justice Jupp and Mr Justice Owen
[Judgment October 11]

Where defendants pleaded guilty to importing substantial quantities of drugs on the basis that they intended to use the drugs for their own consumption, the Court of Appeal would normally expect an enquiry to be held so that the circumstances of the offence could be investigated; see *R v Newton* ([1983] 77 Cr App R 13).

If the judge declined to hold such an enquiry, to resolve disputed issues of fact following a plea of guilty, he should sentence on the basis of the defendants' account.

The Court of Appeal so stated when allowing appeals by Brian Meah and Philip John Marlow and reducing to three and two years respectively prison sentences of six and four years imposed on April 20, 1990 at Isleworth Crown Court by Judge Kenny on pleas of guilty to being knowingly concerned in a fraudulent evasion of a prohibition on the importation of drugs.

Mr Jonathan Rees for Marlow, both counsel assigned by the Registrar of Criminal Appeals.

MR JUSTICE JUPP, giving the judgment of the court, said that the judge had declared himself suspicious that he had not been told the truth about the destination of the drugs and it was surprising that a *Newton* enquiry had not been held.

In the absence of such an enquiry, a plea of not guilty had been imposed on the basis that the appellants' story was true.

Their Lordships rejected the submission that in those circumstances the appellants should have been sentenced on the same basis as for more possession of the drugs.

Importation was a different offence from possession and the penalties were different. An importer's intention would make a considerable difference to the sentence, but if a judge thought it right to sentence on the basis that drugs were imported for personal consumption that was still serious.

If the quantity was substantial, sentences of imprisonment might be imposed of the kind of length of the sentences which had been substituted on this appeal.

Mr Arah Jafferjee for Meah;

Admissibility of evidence from taped interview with child

Regina v H
Before Lord Justice McCowan, Mr Justice Jupp and Mr Justice Owen
[Judgment October 19]

A video-tape of a police interview with a child from which a transcript was made, exhibited to the police officer's evidence at the appellant's committal trial on a charge of incest, constituted a statement admissible in evidence before the justices for the purposes of section 103 of the Magistrates' Courts Act 1980, as amended by section 33 of the Criminal Justice Act 1988.

The Court of Appeal so held when dismissing H's appeal against his conviction on November 30, 1989 at Winchester Crown Court, before

Judge Mantell, QC and a jury, of one count of incest upon a girl aged 10, on which he was sentenced to seven years imprisonment.

Mr Simon Pentol, assigned by the Registrar of Criminal Appeals, for the appellant; Mr Nicholas Atkinson for the Crown.

LORD JUSTICE McCOWAN, giving the judgment of the court, said that by section 33 of the 1988 Act the words "in writing" were deleted from section 103(1)(b) of the 1980 Act, which related to evidence of children in committal proceedings for sexual offences.

The subsection now read "any statement made by or taken from a child shall be admissible

in evidence of any matter of which his oral testimony would be admissible..."

An application to quash the indictment was made on the ground that no statement from the child in written form was before the magistrates and without it there was no admissible evidence to substantiate the allegation of incest.

The trial judge rejected the application, holding that since the condition that the child's statement should be in writing no longer applied, the evidence as tendered was admissible.

Their Lordships agreed, and added that the words "taken from a child" seemed particularly apt to cover what had happened in this case. Solicitors: CPS, Winchester.

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From Russia with love — Olga



ANDREW LONGMORE, tennis correspondent, concludes *The Times* examination of the plight of junior tennis in Britain

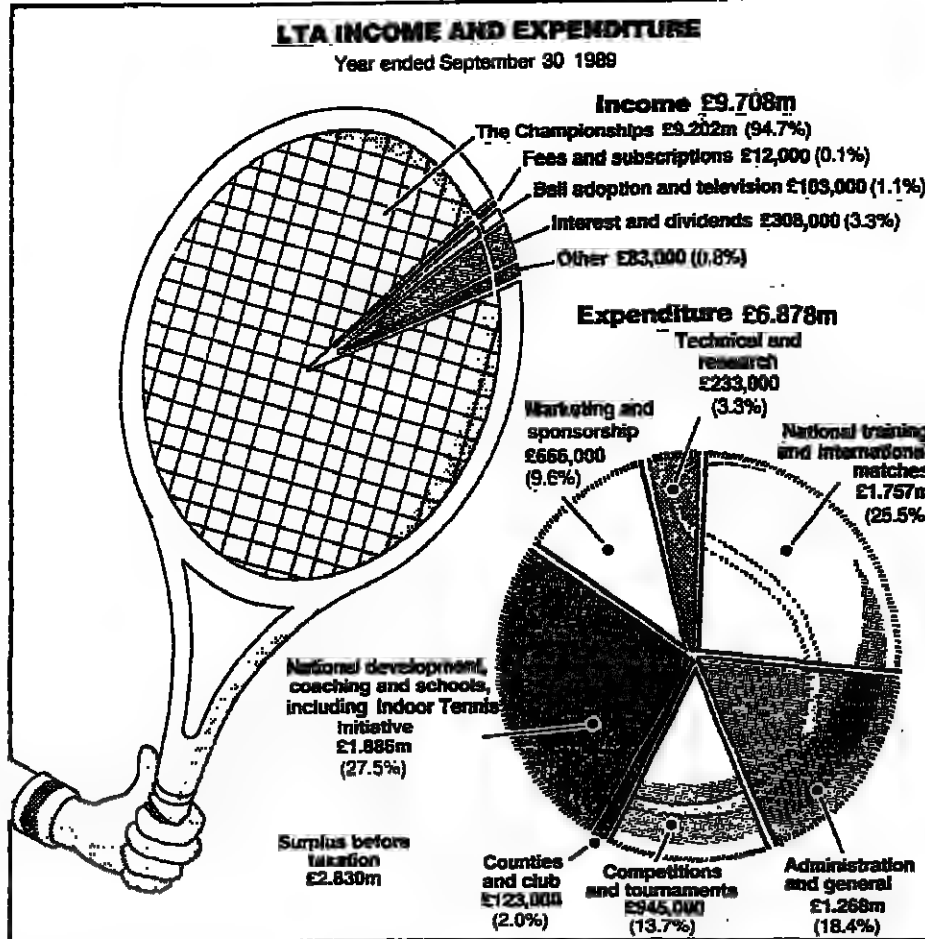
Olga Morozova, the Soviet national coach, arrives in the new year to take up an appointment at the Rover LTA School at Bisham Abbey. This is one of two imaginative decisions taken by the Lawn Tennis Association in recent months. The other was to do away with the national junior grasscourt championships, a move which has horrified the LTA's paymasters at Wimbledon, dismayed parents and traditionalists but has at last indicated a willingness to acknowledge changing times.

Britain does not have to produce a Wimbledon champion; a French, United States or Australian Open champion would be equally good. Morozova's arrival also signals the end of the policy of "splendid isolation" which has dominated British thinking for too long. Initially, Morozova, who has been responsible for producing a host of good players from the backwaters of the Soviet Union, will be working with the new intake of four girls at the LTA School.

But she will doubtless roam far and wide in her search for the best talent and it is important that, having taken the leap in the dark by appointing her under the new Rover scheme, the LTA listens to what she has to say and acts on it.

Morozova will find British tennis a patchwork quilt of neglect and devotion, of excellence and incompetence, of provision and deprivation. She will find thriving tennis clubs with good junior facilities and an imaginative cost structure and she will find clubs submerged in the past, dominated by old-fashioned attitudes and casual selfishness.

She will find schools which



promote and encourage tennis and courts which are decaying; she will find the LTA worthy and slow moving, long on commitment, short on coherence.

She will weep at the amateur attitude which means that our national women's team manager, Ann Jones, through no fault of her own, is committed to work only 13 weeks of the year and which prompts one of our better young players to say: "I'll give the professional circuit a go for a year and see what happens."

Morozova knows what will happen. The boy will discover that "giving it a go" is no longer the way of professional sport and that there is no substitute for fitness, dedication, commitment and, instead of studying, hitting thousands of balls morning, noon and night from the age of 10.

In her darkest moments, I hope Morozova will take time to visit the Indoor Tennis Initiative Centre in Sunderland and talk to Bruce Lawson, the local borough

council's tennis development officer. The centre, one of 12 opened in the first three years of the scheme, is thriving.

Though the ITI centres are set up with local authorities under the philosophy of "sport for all" rather than the pursuit of excellence, one boy, Philip Fowler, has come through into the national junior ranks from the Puma Centre in Sunderland. Fowler also had a co-operative headmaster.

For the LTA, the ITI centres represent the way forward. Three more are under construction, seven more in the planning stage. The next step is to build bigger centres in the main cities: Birmingham, Manchester and Liverpool, areas not generally associated with a pastoral game like tennis.

Yet building centres alone is not enough; they have to be staffed by the right people because effectively the centres have to do the work of the schools and the clubs as well as provide facilities for the whole community. They

have to get coaches into the schools, educate the teachers, encourage families and, in the midst of all that, have the knowledge and the sensitivity to nurture and pass on talented juniors. It is a tall order.

At Nottingham, the ITI centre has been complemented by 19 outdoor hard courts built for the Federation Cup in 1991. Under the imaginative and pugnacious leadership of Sue Mappin, the Federation Cup will be more than just a tennis tournament; it will be a family affair, with hot-air balloons, demonstrations and side-shows.

Each of the local schools will adopt one of the 53 centres involved in the cup, find out about its history and customs and then come along to the event and support "their" country. It might not be quite the LTA's idea of a tennis event, but it is what is required to promote the game and Wimbledon, for all its tradition and splendour, should take note.

More important for the



Miles Maclagan: a name for the Nineties

long-term future of the game, the facilities at Nottingham, which will be second to none in the country, have to be used with equal imagination by the local authority and the LTA. The national junior championships will be held there next summer and the experience might come as a shock to many who preferred the gentle lawns of Devonshire Park in Eastbourne, the traditional home of the junior championships.

British tennis is dominated by Wimbledon and Queen's, two private clubs in London, which have produced the vast majority of the country's top players. But the game is not all about Wimbledon and Queen's. There is also an abundance of goodwill and commitment.

But until there is a fundamental change of attitude in the clubs, in the local authorities and in parts of the LTA itself, until tennis is regarded as more than a gentle pastime for a sunny Sunday afternoon, the potential of the game will be lost.

There are signs that the 1990s will be a more prosperous decade than the 1980s. There are juniors like Miles Maclagan, who are committed to the game, entrepreneurs like David Lloyd, who are proving that tennis can be commercially successful, sponsors like the Midland Bank, willing to support the junior game, and more facilities, more coaches and more opportunities.

But until there is a fundamental change of attitude in the clubs, in the local authorities and in parts of the LTA itself, until tennis is regarded as more than a gentle pastime for a sunny Sunday afternoon, the potential of the game will be lost.

Perhaps the LTA could move its offices out of London, too, lessen its stifling dependence on Wimbledon, raise more of its own

Fanshawe marches on with Chipaya's valuable triumph

By RICHARD EVANS

CHIPAYA, a bargain-basement purchase for Giacomo Agnelli, a London art dealer, proved a priceless masterpiece at Redcar yesterday when she walked away with the Raceday Gold Trophy and £140,000 in prize money and bonuses.

In an action-packed day's racing which saw Alan Munro involved in a serious fall and three jockeys suspended for excessive use of the whip after finishing first, second and third in the same race, Chipaya overcame a supposedly bad draw to win by five lengths.

This valuable victory was the latest chapter in the success story of James Fanshawe, the first-season Newmarket trainer, who has already achieved group-race victories with Radwell and Sepia.

Fanshawe confirmed that Chipaya, who cost a modest 13,500 guineas as a yearling, will now be entered for next season's 1,000 Guineas, for which Ladbrokes make her 25-1. Apart from the £100,000 first prize, a further £40,000 bonus will be split between the owner, trainer, jockey and stable staff.

Fanshawe's yard has less than

30 two-year-olds in training. With the sound on the soft side of good, the Daily Telegraph Raceday Nursery turned into a stamina-sapping battle with horses and jockeys giving their all in the closing stages.

Westholme was given a forceful ride by Jimmy Quinn, but after holding the lead from three furlongs out, was passed in the closing stages by Westfield Moves, vigorously ridden by Jimmy Quinn.

Fortune who received a two-day ban for excessive use of the whip at Leicester on Monday, received a further four-day ban for the same offence following yesterday's race.

Quinn, who also received a four-day ban while Kevin Darby received a two-day suspension for excessive use of the whip on No Hard Feelings, who finished third.

David Cameron dies

David Cameron, the Folkestone clerk of the course, died of a heart attack at Fontwell Park yesterday. Cameron, 59, on Monday, was acting as starter at the Sussex course.

Morgan denies reports of imminent retirement

By PAUL WHEELER

TOM Morgan yesterday denied reports that he is about to retire. The 27-year-old Irishman has not given up hope of returning to the saddle despite continuing weight problems.

"I'm struggling to get my weight down but I've decided anything's definite yet," Morgan said. "I'm giving it a real go to try to get back and there's a chance I might have a ride at the end of next year."

His problems started when his weight, currently around 10st 12lb, rose after he was injured in a fall at Liverpool in April, breaking four ribs. Since May he has been sharing the job as assistant jockey to John Edwards with Norman Williamson.

Most of Edwards' runners

this season have been ridden by Williamson but the Ross-on-Wye trainer has lost over 100 to Derek Byrne, last season's champion conditional jockey with 44 winners.

"Mr Edwards has approached me with the offer of a job sharing the rides with Norman Williamson," Byrne said yesterday. "But I still haven't decided what to do." His problems started when his weight, currently around 10st 12lb, rose after he was injured in a fall at Liverpool in April, breaking four ribs. Since May he has been sharing the job as assistant jockey to John Edwards with Norman Williamson.

Piggott win prompts rise

From OOK IRISH RACING CORRESPONDENT, DUBLIN

WITHIN minutes of the Dublin stock exchange closing yesterday, racing shares in Classic Thoroughbreds - PTC - rose almost 50 per cent from the Friday night closing price of 44 pence to 7p.

This was a sequel to the breeders' Cup Mile victory of Lester Piggott on Royal Ascot, who carries the company's colours. However, the majority

of shareholders have still backed a bid for the company to be paid and shares were floated originally at 20p. "Roderic Moore O'Farrell, the grand old man of Irish racing and breeding, died at 81 yesterday," said a spokesman. He trained four Irish classic winners and bred the winners of four English and four Irish classics.

SCHOOLS FOOTBALL

A cross-channel foray proves a great success

By GEORGE CHESTERTON

CHARTERHOUSE prevented Elizabeth College, Gersy, from sweeping the board in their half-term tour by coming from 2-0 down to win 3-2. Gomez, with two fine individual goals, and Rees with a fierce shot from ten yards were the Charterhouse scorers. Keyho and Lovridge scored for this visitors.

Elizabeth College having defeated Victoria College, Jersey, by 3-1 in the first of the two annual meetings went on to win 3-0 against King Edward's Highbury. The tour finished with a 2-0 win over Winchester, with the goals coming from Pooderlin and Willis, both young players. Outstanding contributors to the success of the tour were Hollier-Hill and Allen, both selected for the Southern Schools.

Millfield, preparing for their forthcoming tour of Australia and Malaysia have been in fine

form. They defeated a Leicester under-19 team 6-0 and Oxford University Centurians 3-2. A team of Plymouth Argyle apprentices were held 0-0.

In the Adidas English Schools county championships (under 19), North Yorkshire drew 1-1 with Northumberland, both goals coming early in the first half. McAleese put North Yorkshire ahead but within a few minutes Arke equalised.

As Queens Elizabeth GS, Blackburn have won nine of their matches this season it is no great surprise that they have six players in the 16-strong squad chosen for the Northern Independent Schools for a game against Liverpool Ramblers on November 4.

SQUADS IN FAVOUR: N. Gorton, J. Taylor, E. Blackburn, P. Burn, R. Farrell (Hullme), W. Wall, C. Boyce (Wolverhampton), D. Womersley (Manchester), P. Powell (Preston), G. Bost, N. Twist (Bolton)

BRIDGE

Chance to catch the eye

By ALBERT DORMER

MODERN computer scoring is enabling the British bridge league to restore one of its oldest and most popular competitions to its original exciting format.

The Portland Pairs for mixed partnerships will be scored by computers as a single event even though it is being played at four centres throughout the United Kingdom.

The English Bridge Union's final trials for the home international series this weekend sees intense rivalry between eight teams, and notably between the

Merseyside pair, John Armstrong and Graham Kirby, and the Londoners, David Burn and David Price.

A bright performance from either pair will improve their chances of catching the eye of the British bridge league selectors when the key trials for the European championship and the world championships in Yokohama follow.

The Londoners have put together a string of bright performances since being ditched by the selectors early this season.

French gypsy has the power to tell Lewis his fortune

By SRIKUMAR SEN, BOXING CORRESPONDENT

THE finance company behind Lennox Lewis's boxing show has been seen to advantage against the Frenchman, Chanele, aged 36, is a tough gypsy and has never been knocked out in 32 contests. If Lewis is to win the title by flooring Chanele, experts must begin to see him in a more favourable light as a world contender.

There is little doubt that potentially Lewis is the best heavyweight Britain has seen. He can box and carries a big punch but so far he has not had to extend himself because his opponents have been specially picked for him. As a result, Lewis has been able to take a little slow going into action. Chanele's non-nonsense approach should force Lewis to show a more positive response.

A night out against a day tripper

By BRYAN STILES

PAUL Hodgkinson, who ended up with ping-pong eyes and an inability to see where the next blow was coming from in his last title venture, will be taking the case, option at Wembley tonight. The Liverpool featherweight is putting his European title on the line against what, on paper, looks to be a day-tripping Frenchman who should be sent scuttling back over the Channel with a thick ear.

Guy Belliche looks the ideal opponent for Hodgkinson to try out his new boxing style — one that does not compel him to use the "face-first" tactics that proved such a frustrating and painful letdown when he chal-

lenged Marcos Villalana, the Mexican, for his world title in Manchester five months ago. "I believe he was well ahead on points and seemingly on his way to glory but by the eighth round he could see of Villalana as a blur because the Mexican had damaged both his eyes with head and fists and they had swollen up grotesquely. He had to quit in despair."

"Because of the nature of his 'defeat', he stays as the No. 1 contender to Villalana in the World Boxing Council ratings and is preparing for a rematch by taking on the Frenchman tonight. The trouble with 'ideal opponents' like Belliche is

that they often get puffed up by the occasion and produce a nasty wallop that secures the title for themselves. So Hodgkinson should proceed carefully — which just about sums up his new strategy, anyway."

Instead of galloping in with combinations blazing, he will be poking out a long jab to set up his man — and then go in with combinations blazing.

It will be the third time that Hodgkinson has defended his European title and he should breeze home, but the Frenchman, despite winning only 12 of his 18 contests, is capable of producing an upset.

CYCLING

A record entry for top race

By PETER BRYAN

A RECORD 18 six-man amateur and professional teams — 108 riders — will compete in next year's Milk Race which links Bridlington with Liverpool after 100 miles of toll through 20 counties in England and Wales.

The 13-stage race, starting on May 26, with a prologue time trial on a difficult sea front circuit, ends in Liverpool on June 8. With the likely demise of the annual Warsaw-Berlin-Prague event, next year's Milk Race will be Europe's hardest test for amateur riders.

The formula, although still to be confirmed, should see 12 amateur squads going to the line and six European professional teams competing.

This year's individual and team winners, Eamonn Faloon, is the only full strength British professional team to confirm that it will be in action next year.

ROUTE: May 26: Prologue, Bridlington; May 27: Bridlington to Hull and evening circuit race, Hull; May 28: Chester to Lincoln; May 29: St Albans to Norwich; May 30: Great Yarmouth to Bay St Breville; May 31: Ipswich to Milton Keynes; June 1: Northampton to Leicester; June 2: Birmingham Circuit Race; June 3: Fleet day; June 4: Gloucester to Swansea; June 5: Cardiff to Great Malvern; June 6: Telford to Sheffield; June 7: Sheffield to Leeds; June 8: Manchester to Liverpool.

lan Cammish, the Raleigh professional, was today given the go ahead for his attempt on the British 100-mile straight-out record, scheduled for tomorrow, following a Meteorological Office forecast on wind strength and direction. He will make his bid on the A1, A604 and A45 between Stamford and Ipswich.

Headquarters are to be relocated

By LOUISE TAYLOR

AN EXECUTIVE committee meeting of the All England Netball Association (AENA) last Saturday made decisions with far-reaching implications for the sport's administrative future.

The committee decided to move the AENA's office away from London, with the deadline for vacating the present premises, at the Central Council for Physical Recreation (CCPR) headquarters near Victoria, set for September 1991.

The decision was welcomed by Liz Nicholl, the chief executive of the AENA, who said: "This augurs well for the future. We envisage moving to a site north of London, preferably within the home counties. Commuting is such a waste of time. We are in cramped offices, with no room for development, and the commercial opportunities in the capital are such that it is very difficult for voluntary organisations such as ourselves to retain secretarial staff."

By September next year, the AENA will also have appointed a part-time press officer, and by September 1992, a full-time national director of development and coaching should be installed.

The changes, intended to promote a more efficient and economic governing body, come as a result of recommendations by a firm of independent consultants who carried out a review during the summer. On the playing front, this Saturday sees the second round of the PES English Counties Leagues programme. The match

of the day involves Birmingham's championship team, visiting Bedfordshire, the present holders of the title, who will be handicapped by the absence of Kendra Lowe and Trudy Papafio, the England internationals, who are both injured.

Surrey, strengthened by the signing of Sue Keel, the former England captain, from Middlesex, are at home to newly promoted South Yorkshire. This is a formidable proposition for south Yorkshire, who lost to Birmingham in their opening fixture, as Surrey also include Sheila Edwards, the present England captain, along with fellow internationals Sandra Fairweather and Alison Keyne.

Cheshire entertain Kent, the other newcomers to the first division, and Kentollian, who beat Bedfordshire on the opening day, play host to Middlesex, who are missing Jesslyn Parkes, the injured England goalkeeper, but lack experience of the sport.

Elrys Jones, the first full-time executive for the Welsh Netball Association (WNA), resigned last week after two years in the job. Jones had a sound administrative background but lacked experience of the sport.

Sheila Cookley, a WNA spokeswoman, said: "We are surprised and disappointed at her departure, she never gave the notice the position required, and we are not planning to replace her and will make sure we get someone with a background in netball, because that is what the netballers deserve."

Open tickets going at discount price

By MITCHELL PLATTIS, GOLF CORRESPONDENT

A LIMITED number of composite tickets that include various special facilities are available at £200 for the 120th Open Championship, at Royal Birkdale, Southport, from July 18 to 21 when Nick Faldo will defend the title.

The championship committee of the Royal and Ancient is again encouraging spectators to purchase early by offering substantial discounts on the price of season tickets.

If bought before February 1991, a season ticket, which gives admission to the course for the week, will cost £45 (43 per cent) on the daily rates. The price of daily tickets on championship days will be £14. Applications for tickets should be directed to The Secretary (Dept 00), Royal and Ancient Golf Club, St Andrews, Fife, KY16 9UD.

S Africans join forces

JOHANNESBURG (Reuters) — South Africa's rival golfing unions have agreed to merge, making it the latest sport to put its house in order in the hope of regaining international recognition.

The mainly white Professional Golfers' Association and the predominantly black Tournament Players' Association said on Monday they would join forces immediately. In a move to abide by the international moratorium on

sporting links with South Africa, they added that foreign players would be banned next year from the Sunshine Tour. Only 24 players who gained exempt status would be allowed to play in this year's circuit.

Golf in South Africa will now fall under the umbrella of the anti-apartheid National Olympic and Sports Congress (NOSC), a pre-condition for any sport hoping to move from under the shadow of the UN-backed boycott of the republic.

Dobson fit to resume

HELEN Dobson, who has not played since August because of tennis elbow, is included in the Ladies' Golf Union training squad that will practise under the direction of Bernard Gallacher, the European Ryder Cup captain, at the Northumbrian Club, this weekend (Mitchell Plattis writes).

Dobson is one of seven members of Curtis Cup team included in the squad. Kathryn Imrie, the eighth member, has turned professional.

THE TIMES

SPORTS SERVICE

FOOTBALL

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FOOTBALL

Rumbelows Cup

Third round

Aston Villa v Millwall (7.45)
Chelsea v Portsmouth (7.45)
Coventry v Hull (7.45)
Derby v Sunderland (7.45)
Leeds v Oldham (7.45)
Manchester Utd v Liverpool (8.0)
Preston v Nottm Forest (7.45)
QPR v Blackburn (7.45)
Sheff Wed v Swindon (7.45)

Barclays League

Fourth division

Maidstone v Wrexham (8.0)

GM Vauxhall Conference

Gateshead v Runcorn

B and O Scottish League

Meadowbank v Morton

Other match

Bristol City v Dynamo Minsk

IRISH TMT GOLD CUP

Portadown v Bangor (at Belfast, 9.15)

FA Cup Fourth qualifying round

Doncaster v Darlington (8.00)
Doncaster v Darlington (8.00)

VAUXHALL LEAGUE

Widnes v King's Lynn (7.45)
Widnes v King's Lynn (7.45)

Widnes v King's Lynn

Widnes v King's Lynn (7.45)
Widnes v King's Lynn (7.45)

RUGBY LEAGUE

First division

Accrington Stanley v Lancaster City

Accrington Stanley v Lancaster City

Accrington Stanley v Lancaster City

Accrington Stanley v Lancaster City

Accrington Stanley v Lancaster City

Accrington Stanley v Lancaster City

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Fellows's French triumph the hallmark of a real champion

PENNY Fellows, aged 27, the women's world real tennis champion who reclaimed her French Open title in crushing style, proved in doing so that she is finally back to top form.

Her 6-1, 6-4 victory over Alex Garside on the lively Bordeaux court ten days ago avenged an unexpected defeat by Garside in the semi-finals of the British Open championship last December.

The past 18 months have not been easy for the champion; she shut out some of the pain of the break-up of her marriage to Dick Fellows, training and practising obsessively for the world championships in Philadelphia last May, but afterwards suffered a crushing sense of anti-climax, taking a six-month break travelling in Australia to try to regain her appetite for the game.

This evidently paid off, as just prior to competing in France she became the first woman ever to play in the Open Championships for players of handicap nine to 19. She reached the quarter-finals, beating Nick Meades, of the all-male Leamington Club, and only losing 6-5, 6-1 to the seeded Oxford professional, Kees Ludekens.

On this form, despite a nominal handicap of 17, she must be playing near to 13 or 14, the lowest handicap a woman has ever achieved, and a tribute to the long hours of training that recently brought her two coveted awards from the sport's governing body, for the most improved player, and for the best performance by an amateur, male or female.

SALLY JONES on the woman whose dedication has helped her reach new heights in the world of real tennis

Fellows, a shy but single-minded woman with a brilliant grin that transforms her face, admits that during her separation the game helped her take her mind off her emotional crises. "I somehow ran things out of myself," she said. "If I hadn't had real tennis it would all have been even harder, but being able to go on court and have a great game really did help me relax — you have to concentrate so hard it makes you shut everything else out of your mind."

Her preparation for the world championship was impressively thorough: aerobics sessions, running and weight training several times a week, plus hundreds of hours of on-court practice with her coach and mentor, Colin Lumley, a quiet, perceptive Australian professional who helped her read the game far more effectively and added extra power and mobility to her sound basic technique.

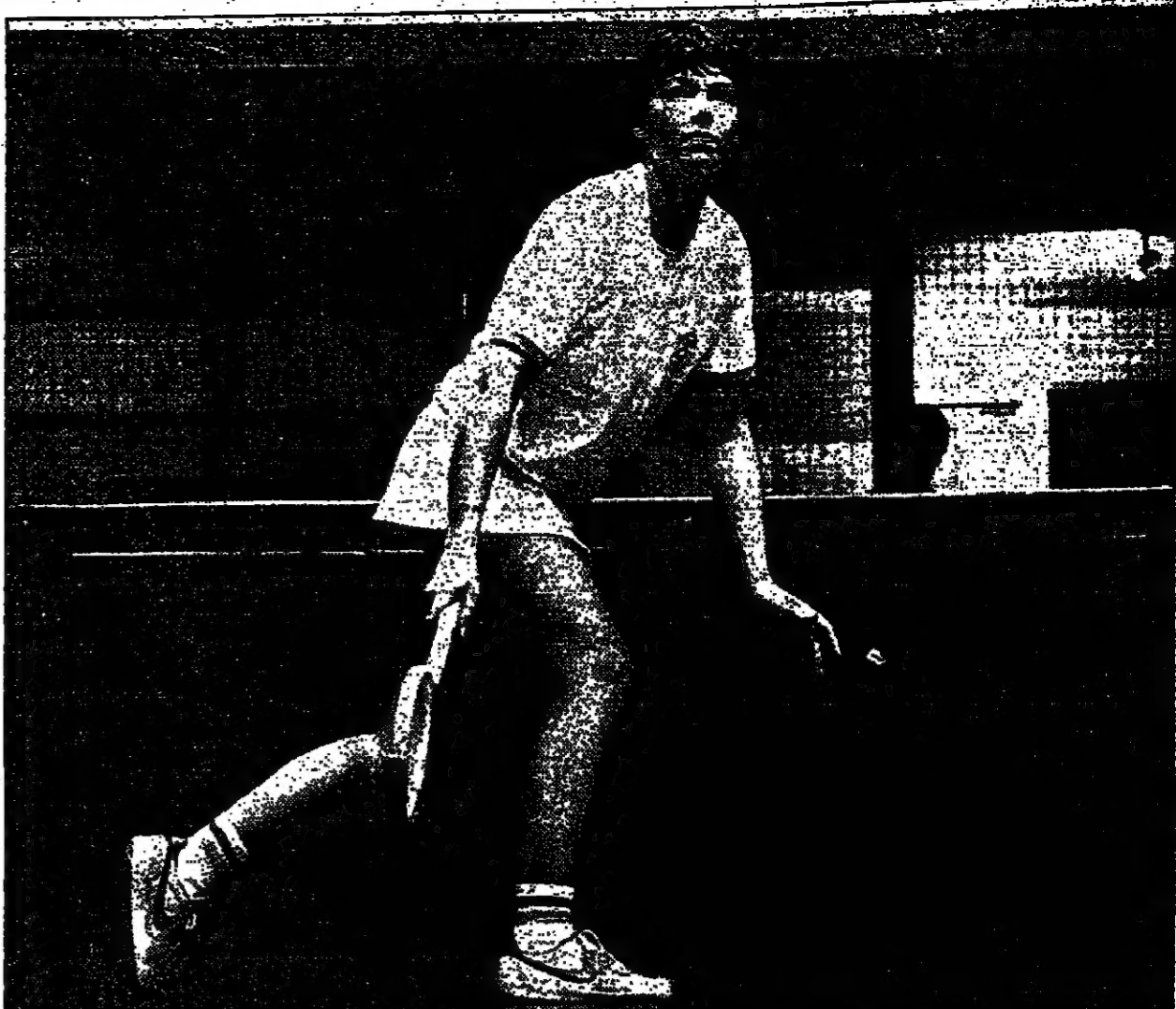
"It was great to win the world title when I'd worked so hard for it," Fellows said. "Losing the US Open the previous week after being 6-0, 4-2 up in the final really rattled my nerves so I was concentrating extra hard and took my chances instead of getting tentative."

Fellows's rapid improvement was partly due to her natural talent and

athleticism. As a teenager she had represented Essex juniors at lawn tennis after early encouragement from her parents, themselves keen players at the Frinton Lawn Tennis Club where her father, Eric, is president. Taking up real tennis five years ago, however, marked a turning-point in her life.

"What I loved about it was all the extra strategy and variety. In lawn tennis you hit the ball up and down the court, but with real tennis you're always learning about the different spins and angles and trying to gauge which one of a whole range of shots to play in a particular situation. Because only a few hundred women play it wasn't too difficult to go up through the rankings, and when I won my first handicap tournament after just three months I found everyone so friendly and welcoming it encouraged me to keep going."

The hard work continues. Fellows's job as a secretary at Brent Chemicals near Windsor allows her plenty of time for training, and she is about to move house to within two minutes of the picturesque Holyport Real Tennis Club. Her main problem is finding enough high-quality opponents. "I can see myself improving week by week — and I'm now beating men I lost to only three months ago — but what I and the other top women need is the chance to take part in more level (equal terms) tournaments against men to sharpen up. I've still got so much to learn. I just relish each new challenge."



Poised to set new standards: Fellows, the world real tennis champion, training at the Holyport club in Berkshire

CRICKET

Pringle's efforts may prove in vain

From QAMAR AHMED IN FAISALABAD

NEW Zealand, pursuing 243 runs to win the third and final Test match at the Iqbal Stadium here, were in dire straits at 31 for four by the end of the fourth day, leaving Pakistan clear favourites to complete a clean sweep in the series.

With Horne, Franklin, Greatbatch and Morrison, the nightwatchman, already out New Zealand will need a big innings from Martin Crowe to have any hope of reaching their victory target in the 72 overs remaining to them.

The first hour of the final day will be crucial. Aaqib has already taken three wickets, although he might have had luck on his side in the case of Morrison, who was given out caught behind when it looked as if the ball might have brushed the top of a pad.

Pakistan, resuming at 252 for three, were restricted to 56 runs in the morning session but New Zealand were unable to break through. Miandad passed Sobert to become the fourth heaviest scorer in Test history while his partner, Shoaib, achieved a landmark of his own. When 140, he overtook Miandad's aggregate of 504, the previous best by a Pakistan batsman in a three-match series against New Zealand.

Their partnership of 117 for the fourth wicket ended in the second over after lunch when Miandad was caught off Pringle for 55. In Pringle's following over Shoaib, on 142, was caught behind, giving Pringle his tenth wicket of the match.

The last batsman had no answer to Morrison, who picked up the last four wickets in 17 balls while conceding only five runs.

Pakistan: Final Innings 108 (C Pringle 7 for 50).

Second Innings: Pakistan 148 (C Pringle 16 for 50, 54, 56, 58, 60, 62, 64, 66, 68, 70, 72, 74, 76, 78, 80, 82, 84, 86, 88, 90, 92, 94, 96, 98, 100, 102, 104, 106, 108, 110, 112, 114, 116, 118, 120, 122, 124, 126, 128, 130, 132, 134, 136, 138, 140, 142, 144, 146, 148, 150, 152, 154, 156, 158, 160, 162, 164, 166, 168, 170, 172, 174, 176, 178, 180, 182, 184, 186, 188, 190, 192, 194, 196, 198, 200, 202, 204, 206, 208, 210, 212, 214, 216, 218, 220, 222, 224, 226, 228, 230, 232, 234, 236, 238, 240, 242, 244, 246, 248, 250, 252).

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Liverpool cast a shadow over Ferguson's hopes

By IAN ROSS

IF IT does nothing else, tonight's visit of Liverpool to Old Trafford for a Rumbelows Cup third-round tie is likely to remind Manchester United exactly why it is that they have once again been forced to employ a restrictive and frustrating form of tunnel vision when plotting a route forward to domestic honours.

With one quarter of the first division League programme now completed, United find themselves cast in an almost perennial role of chasers rather than leaders.

Predictably, it is tonight's opponents who occupy the division's top spot, and while Alex Ferguson's claims that his side are still capable of returning the championship trophy to Old Trafford after an absence of 24 years are touching, the prospect of United closing the 14-point gap which already separates the two clubs is beginning to verge on the fanciful.

Ferguson may be reluctant to acknowledge as much but his players will already have attuned their thoughts to the special demands of the cup competitions, an invariably dangerous path to salvation but one which has, in the past, provided welcome solace for a succession of under-fire United managers.

Since last winning the championship in 1967, United have reached seven domestic cup finals. Indeed, last season's FA Cup final victory over Crystal Palace, a worthy triumph at the end of a largely inauspicious campaign, quite possibly saved

Ferguson from being dismissed.

Consequently, the pairing of United with a Liverpool side which has struck such a rich vein of form could not have been more inopportune or potentially embarrassing.

Despite enjoying home advantage, it is unlikely that United's confidence will match their expectations, for six weeks ago they were beaten 4-0 at Anfield in a League fixture.

Whether or not Ferguson is anticipating a United win remains unclear as he is refusing to discuss even the state of the Manchester weather with representatives of the national or local media.

Angered by the widespread publication, last week, of comments he made at a Football Writers' Association lunch about the decision of the Arsenal board of directors to fine George Graham in the aftermath of the fighting which occurred during the recent League game at Old Trafford, Ferguson has imposed a comprehensive news black-out.

His main selection issue tonight is whether or not to recall Phelan in midfield after a two-match absence because of tonsillitis.

Although there will be no place in the starting lineup for Robins, United's prolific young forward, he is likely to win a place on the substitutes' bench at the expense of Donaghy.

Liverpool may well be without their most potent weapon, Barnes, who limped away

from last Saturday's game against Chelsea after damaging a hamstring.

With Liverpool due to play Tottenham Hotspur at White Hart Lane on Sunday, Kenny Dalglish, the team manager, may well decide to err on the side of caution by omitting the mercurial England winger in favour of bolstering his midfield by the inclusion of Molby.

McMahon is troubled by a knee injury but he is expected to play. Whelan, the Republic of Ireland international midfielder player, may well be recalled after a three-match absence because of a groin problem.

"It was a tremendous game the last time we met," Dalglish said. "Obviously the scoreline was more pleasing to us than it was to them. I am sure that it will be a great occasion this time around."

England have been drawn against Germany in the quarter-finals of the fourth European football championship for women. The first leg will be played in England on November 25, with the return in Germany on December 16.

Coventry City have released their Scottish winger, Dougie McGuire, by mutual agreement. The former Celtic player failed to establish himself at Highfield Road after missing a season with glandular fever, and only made four first-team appearances. The 23-year-old former Scottish schoolboy international cost Coventry £40,000.

Study cites role of Moynihan

By JOHN GOODBODY

A LEADING researcher into football hooliganism yesterday said that the British government's negative attitude was partly to blame for the violence at the 1990 World Cup.

John Williams, a sociologist at Leicester University, said that many of the findings, to be published in a report sponsored by the government, showed that the fears expressed by the British government led the Italian authorities to believe all England supporters were hooligans.

"The government appeared to give the Italian authorities a free hand in the way they treated England supporters and this led to some incidents with supporters who were totally innocent."

"In other circumstances, people would have been outraged by the government's attitude. I am not suggesting that England supporters are just like other supporters. They are not. There is an aggressive and racist element but most just want to watch the games," he said.

Three researchers at the Sir Norman Chester Centre for Football Research are part of a five-nation European study into hooliganism at the competition. The report has yet to be concluded but another of the researchers, Adrian Goldberg, who stayed with the England followers in Italy, has attacked the role of Colin Moynihan, the former minister for sport, for identifying the English and Dutch supporters as the most likely to cause trouble.

The Football Supporters Association (FSA) is also likely to be critical of the government's role, particularly that of Moynihan.

Millwall intend to give Inter lesson

By LOUISE TAYLOR

ASKING Millwall to succeed where Inter Milan failed may sound like a tall order, but when the going gets tough, few are better at getting going than Bruce Rioch's team.

Tonight Millwall travel to Aston Villa for a Rumbelows League Cup third round tie they are expected to lose, yet last Saturday's 4-2 win at home to Sheffield Wednesday, after trailing 2-0 at half-time, highlighted the side's never-say-die attitude. Now fourth in the second division, Millwall have married character to class, modifying a previously long ball approach into a much prettier passing game.

A disciplinary off the field, Rioch encourages freedom of expression on it, and with Jimmy Carter and Kevin O'Callaghan working down both wings, Millwall have surprised many by emerging as one of this season's most attractive second division teams.

Tactically, Rioch is more flexible than many other managers, and the introduction of a man-for-man marking strategy enabled Middlesex, his former club, to dismiss Villa from the semi-final of last season's Zenith Data Systems Cup.

As Tony Mowbray, the Middlesbrough captain, said: "Bruce was the first manager I have played under who told me exactly what he wanted me to do on the field. But having created that framework individuals were encouraged to play their natural game."

Villa, who beat Inter 2-0 in a UEFA Cup first leg tie last week, are bolstered by the return of Paul McGrath following a knee injury. Kevin Gage is unlikely to return after being side-lined for five weeks by a calf injury, but Tony

Cascarino should start against his former club.

Transferred to Villa Park from The Den last season, Cascarino's tussles with Steve Wood and Alan McLeary, the Millwall central defenders, should prove one of the principal sub-plots tonight.

Nottingham Forest, the League Cup holders, will not relish their trip to Plymouth Argyle. Managed by David Kemp, a former Wimbledon coach, Argyle, who put Wimbledon out in the last round, play the sort of direct percentage game that Forest hate, and will be doing their best to hustle Brian Clough's team out of its stride.

However, Plymouth are hampered by the loss of Andy Thomas, their leading scorer who has a back injury, and Rhys Wilmot, the goalkeeper, who is suspended. Forest, without Steve Hodge, who has suffered a recurrence of the calf strain which sidelined him during the early part of the season.

Kemp remained optimistic yesterday. "You have got to respect Brian Clough because he has a great record and a good team," he said. "But people did not expect us to beat Wimbledon, and we did that the hard way, over two legs. Now I want to make the most of the rewards, not just with a big crowd — which is what the directors want — but with a good display."

Leeds' lifted aim to avoid being knocked out of the competition by Oldham Athletic for the fourth time in five seasons at Elland Road. With Peter Haddock still injured, Chris Kamara, who last Saturday made the first division appearance of his career at the age of 32, retains his place in the home defence.

Potent partnership, page 43

Bicknell makes Australian batsmen struggle



Batting failure: Martin Bicknell, run out for a single by the wicketkeeper, Veletta, more than redeemed himself with the ball at Perth

England salvage honour in defeat

A SPIRITED bowling performance, in which the new-comer, Martin Bicknell, played a leading role, just failed to save England from defeat in their limited-overs, day-night game in Perth yesterday against a powerful West Australian Invitation XI.

Although England's total of 180 was always likely to prove inadequate the bowlers made the home side work hard for victory, which came with three wickets in hand and only nine balls of the 50 overs to spare.

England, who were put in, batted disappointingly on a pitch offering pace and bounce, but thanks to Bicknell, who struck three times in the space of 15 balls early on, splendidly supported by Fraser, Small and Lewis, they went close to achieving what would have been a remarkable success.

It needed an innings of high class under the floodlights from Darren Lehmann, Australia's most exciting young batsman, who made 50 from 69 deliveries with the help of seven fours, to wrest the initiative back from the England bowlers.

When he was seventh out, treading on his stumps attempting to pull a ball from

Fraser, the target was down to 25 in five overs and MacLay and Mack proved equal to this demand.

The uncapped Bicknell, who owed his selection for the tour partly to his ability to swing the ball, proved a handful for batsmen of the calibre of Marsh, Moody, Jones and Mark Waugh. Marsh was the first to fall to him, caught at second slip, and McPhee went the same way. Bicknell completed a purple patch by sending back Moody for two, with the help

of a brilliant diving catch from Robin Smith, at backward point. He also had Jones dropped before he had scored, from a difficult chance to Stewart at wide mid-off.

England lost their first four wickets for 57 and had Lamb not been missed behind the wicket by Veletta before he had scored even the modest recovery which resulted might have been beyond them.

Lamb was never completely settled but contributed a typically defiant 50, nudging England towards respectability

with the help of the reliable Russell (31), who saw 70 added for the fifth wicket, and Lewis, who made 26.

Almost inevitably, it was Alderman who began England's troubles, having Larkins caught at second slip for nine. Although Goodrich, needing some luck, played through Alderman's opening spell he was caught by him at slip for 29 when MacLay found the edge.

The pick of the Australian bowlers was Reid, who finished with the first figures of one for 15 from 16 overs. The scorching left-arm seamer, was the pick of the home attack in the Test series against Mike Gatting's team four years ago.

Now, having recovered from four serious back operations, he will be challenging hard to regain his place this winter.

"It was a worthwhile exercise and the only thing that disappointed was coming second," the England manager, Mick Stewart, said after the match. "I knew it would be hard once we were short of runs but everyone will have learnt something from the game."

"It's not easy coping with the extra bounce when you first start but this was a good

introduction for the players, many of whom found it strange under the lights."

Goodrich said: "One or two of us, myself included, got out to rash shots. But I was pleased with the way our bowlers performed. They were excellent. Bicknell did really well. He's got a lot to learn but he is on the right track."

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Munro seriously hurt after fall at Redcar

By RICHARD EVANS

ALAN Munro, one of Britain's most promising flat racing jockeys, was undergoing x-ray tests last night after a fall at Redcar. He was admitted to Middlesbrough General Hospital in a semi-conscious state with "suspected serious head injuries" after falling off Mystic Crystal shortly after the start of the 16-runner Daily Telegraph Racecard Nursery.

Munro regained consciousness by the time he reached hospital and was able to talk to medical staff. "He is in a comfortable condition," a spokesman said. "He has been admitted for observation at least overnight and has had some x-rays."

The fall has probably ended

Munro's chances of achieving 100 winners this season. After starting the Flat campaign as a 3lb claimer, he has developed into one of the most talented riders and, with his low crouching style, had won 95 races before this incident.

The Redcar stewards concluded that the fall was accidental, with Mystic Crystal losing his footing on rising ground. Munro was trampled over by Swift Sword, ridden by John Lowe.

The race was surrounded in controversy, the jockeys of the first three horses home all being suspended for excessive use of the whip.

Fanshawe's triumph, page 40

Great Chinese proletarian snooker revolution

Guanzhou

THE Asian Open, the first world-ranking snooker tournament to be held in China, began here on Monday but the opening exchange came at the welcoming banquet the previous evening when a representative of British American Tobacco (BAT), the sponsor, presented Lei Pao, the general secretary of the Chinese Billiards and Snooker Association, with a cheque for \$20,000 (about £10,250).

The grant should not be looked at cynically. China represents a huge, developing market for tobacco companies but the wish of BAT (whose 555 brand is sponsoring the tournament) is that the money will be properly spent on the development of snooker here.

The wish will be granted, according to Lei Pao. Snooker is advancing rapidly in China. It is making its own tables, principally in Shanghai.

STEVE ACTESON on how the Red Guard of the green baize are showing their nation the way to pot black

Guanzhou alone has 14 clubs of varying quality, boasting a total of about 300 tables. The best of which are imported from Britain via Hong Kong.

It is the human element that BAT's grant will benefit. Thailand and Hong Kong, where snooker is firmly established, have produced potentially successful professionals in James Wattana and Franky Chan, who lost 5-1 to Tony Chappel of Wales, in the fifth round. But Chan has also reached the last 16 of the Dubai Classic.

He is a first-season professional. Hong Kong's first on the circuit and, having won, four ranking

points, has upwardly revised his first-year ambition from reaching the top 64 to climbing into the top 32. The Chinese are excited about him, for his family's roots lie in Guanzhou. If they cannot claim him as their own, they hope to produce others like him.

Lei Pao, who could not say how many players China had, said: "We have no professionals, so there is no prize-money. But the grant will be used to stage amateur events all over the country and also to help in the coaching of young players. The Chinese youth realise snooker is not an energetic game but it is considered a dignified one to play. Five years ago, only billiards was available in hotels but now snooker is everywhere."

The former prime minister, Deng Xiaoping, is a devotee of billiards, which he learnt while in exile in Paris, and although after the revolu-

tion the Chinese dug up the golf courses as being too reminiscent of wealthy colonialists, they left intact the elegant billiards rooms of hotels in such places as Shanghai.

Snooker has been played here outside on concrete tables or even kneeling down, the table chalked out on the pavement and metal balls struck into holes dug in the ground. Guanzhou, however, is a prosperous commercial city and the clubs are beginning to reflect it. The nearest, built a year ago, and curiously named Guanzhou Billiards Town, has 32 tables, VIP rooms and a top-quality British match table. But with average charges of £3.50 an hour, it is out of the reach of the proletarian.

The Asian Open is being staged at the studios of Guang Dong television and, with a capacity of only 300, the audience is limited to VHS

and other guests, although tickets are being issued to staff at the players' base, the China Hotel. The staff keep with amazement round the practice room door at the world champion, Stephen Hendry, and his colleagues.

The interests of the Chinese public will be served by television. Thirteen hours will be broadcast, including live coverage of the final, to an audience estimated at 100 million-plus. But this is no novelty, for Chinese television regularly shows home tournaments and professional events bought from the BBC.

The Chinese will be disappointed on one score. Steve Davis failed to qualify for the final stages. Davis, who, with Dennis Taylor, played the first professional exhibition in Guanzhou in 1985, is still regarded as No. 1.

Handwritten text in Chinese: 球台